

THE UK'S BIGGEST REGIONAL GAY LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

ZONE

MIDLANDS EDITION

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ISSUE 235

LOOKING FOR JOHN

NEW STAGE SHOW
CELEBRATES BIRMINGHAM'S
GAY ICE SKATING LEGEND
JOHN CURRY

WORLD AIDS DAY

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Offices:
Wynner House,
Bromsgrove St,
Birmingham B5 6RG
and
13-14 Abbey Foregate,
Shrewsbury, SY2 6AE

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Editor-in-Chief & Publisher: **Martin Monahan** Editor: **Ryan Humphreys** ryan@midlandszone.co.uk 01743 281722

Sales & Marketing: **Lei Woodhouse** lei@midlandszone.co.uk 01743 281703 **Chris Horton** chris.horton@midlandszone.co.uk 01743 281704

Admin/ Subscriptions: **Adrian Parker** adrian.parker@midlandszone.co.uk 01743 281714 **Managing Director: Davina Evans**

Graphic Designers: **Lisa Wasaell**, **Chris Atherton** Accounts Administrator: **Julia Perry** julie@whatsonlive.co.uk 01743 281717



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LOOKING FOR JOHN

Midlands Zone meets actor/writer Tony Timberlake, a man determined to revive the reputation of gay sporting icon and Olympic gold medallist John Curry...

Winter Olympics 1976: millions around the world watch in wonder as Birmingham-born John Curry makes figure skating history, taking home two gold medals for Team GB. Combining influences from ballet and contemporary dance, his dazzling choreography is credited with radically transforming perceptions of men's ice-skating at home and abroad, and at the time, he's lauded as a sporting hero, named the "Nureyev of the Ice" and goes on to take the title of BBC Sports Personality of the Year.

But in the years that followed, Curry slowly slipped out of the public consciousness, and his untimely death in 1994 has left a generation almost completely unaware of his achievements. Seeking to rectify that is actor-turned-writer Tony Timberlake, who was among the 19 million viewers transfixed by Curry's Winter Olympics win.

"I sat mesmerised, watching him win Olympic Gold," Timberlake recalls. "As far as I can remember, there had been no one else like him on the ice. Of course, he was British as well, which made it even more exciting. Getting Gold at the Winter Olympics was quite a rare thing for Britain at the time, so it had this huge impact on me as a youngster."

Though that admiration sparked in childhood never left him, it would be decades before Timberlake began work on the project that has become *Looking For John*, a one-man theatre show being performed at Birmingham REP this month.

"Years went by, and every now and then thoughts of him would come into my head. Shortly after he died, I ended up talking to somebody who knew him personally, and I discovered a lot of things about him that I hadn't known before. So I went back and looked at the routine again, started digging around and ended up becoming a bit obsessed by him."

By coincidence, over the next few years, Timberlake continually found himself working with people who had known Curry, either personally or professionally, as Curry had briefly dabbled in acting as well as dancing and skating. Speaking to these friends and colleagues revealed to Timberlake a whole host of things he hadn't previously been aware of.

"One of the things that really galvanised me into doing this was that I kept finding all these connections with actors and directors I was working with - it made me feel like there was a reason I had to make this show. I think the really big thing that surprised me was the extent of John's courage. Everybody knew that he was this superb, artistic figure skater who changed the sport by standing by what he believed in, but also in his personal life, he never denied who he really was."

Curry's early death - at the age of just 44 - was widely known to have been caused by AIDS, in a world that was still extremely hostile to gay men who contracted HIV. It was perhaps partly this that contributed to the steady dwindling away of his public profile.

"He was a big celebrity, and although he did go and live in America, he was still very much somebody who everyone knew about, yet he owned his sexuality and his HIV status very publicly, even when it turned into full-blown AIDS. So not only did he stand up to a skating world that believed very strongly that men and women should skate in different ways, he was incredibly brave in the face of great prejudice against him as a gay man."

For Timberlake, Curry's story soon started to take on a powerful personal significance. *Looking For John* is as much a tale of self-discovery as it is about shedding light on a forgotten hero.

"As with any show like this, the more you find out about somebody else, the more you discover things about yourself and why you have such a strong attachment to them. It's just me on the stage in the show, playing the various different people that I met and gathering lots of information. One of the most important people I spoke to was Gillian Lynne, the choreographer, who was great friends with John all through his life. As an actor, I've worked with her a lot, and it was actually a conversation with her that really got me started on this project. But I've also spoken to other skaters and friends, to John's biographer, and to some of his past lovers."

The difficulties that Curry must have faced during his life will doubtless continue to resonate with audiences even now. While these days young LGBT folk do have more representatives in the public eye to look up to, the fact that 'coming out' stories are still often considered a big deal, especially in the sporting world, speaks volumes about how far there still is to go.

"I think it's massively important for young people to be able to see others like themselves being successful. I do think things have moved forward over the last 40 years, and I think it's great that a lot of sportsmen and women are being more open about their sexuality, but so often the revelations come after a sports star has retired. That's why when Tom Daley came out, it was so fantastic. He's somebody who's a winner and who's celebrated now, and his sexuality doesn't matter. I just think that's so helpful for young people, to feel like they can be winners too, and it's something I explore a lot in the piece."

It might be too late for Curry himself to appreciate the tribute, but there are nonetheless plenty of good reasons for staging the

show in 2016.

"We're coming up to the 40th anniversary of him winning Gold, which is partly why I particularly wanted to do it this year. Another thing that really fuelled me to get the play put on was going to Birmingham and talking to people there, and realising just how many of them didn't know who he was. And I realised that unless you were over 40, of course you probably wouldn't know."

"It really got me thinking about the idea of legacy. What do you leave behind, especially as a gay man? John Curry's legacy is partly how he changed skating, but I also felt this need to get him remembered and celebrated again in the Midlands, where he was born and died. There's a statue of him at a big ice rink in Sheffield, and there's also a room named after him at the Actor's Centre in London, but that's all. There's nothing in Birmingham, even though he's very much a son of the city. I'm hoping the show will encourage people to change that."

The production's not all serious and reverential, though - there should be plenty of laughs along the way as well. Most importantly, Timberlake hopes that audiences will take away a positive, optimistic message about self-acceptance and staying true to who you are.

"I think very often John has been represented as quite a serious person, but a lot of the people I spoke to talked about how funny he was and what a great sense of humour he had, so I felt it was important to reflect that. I hope that it's heartfelt, and I hope that it's fun - I definitely don't want it all to be bleak!"

The project has inspired Timberlake to continue writing. He's already got a couple of other potential scripts in the pipeline.

"I think there are really important themes about sexuality in this show that I've found fascinating to explore, and I would love to do more. I've started talking to people about some other ideas, but obviously I'd like to get John sorted first!"

Looking For John is directed by Tessa Walker and supported by Homotopia and SHOUT Festival.

The show runs at Birmingham REP from Wednesday 16 until Saturday 19 November.

LET'S SHOUT ABOUT IT!

SHOUT Festival returns to Birmingham this month (from Thursday 10 to Sunday 20 November), bringing with it the best in queer and LGBT artists, work and culture from across the UK and beyond.

Each November, the festival ignites debate, inspires discussion, increases representation and showcases the work of queer artists across the city.

This year's festival, the eighth edition of the event, features a programme of performing and visual arts which not only celebrates

queer identities and experiences but also directly responds to the ever-changing and developing world around us.

In 2016, the idea of what it means to be LGBT has become more evident to the public than ever before. Whilst we make significant moves towards equality and overcoming barriers in the UK, a number of events over the past year have demonstrated that global equality remains a long way off.

SHOUT is a place to celebrate diversity, push boundaries, challenge views and explore

meaning, in the process providing a platform for the voices and experiences of queer people.

Conceived as a project by Birmingham LGBT, SHOUT has gone from strength to strength. It's grown and evolved again this year, and organisers say they're delighted to be working with such a diverse and exciting programme of both established and upcoming artists, building on existing partnerships and welcoming new partners and venues to the festival.

MISS BEHAVE'S GAMESHOW

Thursday 10 November, 8pm, Club Chic

SHOUT Festival launches on Thursday 10 November with the outrageous and internationally acclaimed Miss Behave's Gameshow, a renegade gameshow for the austerity generation.

Direct from London's Wonderground and hosted by the star of the Olivier Award-winning *La Clique* and *La Solree*, this smash-hit production is here receiving its Midlands premiere.

£8 / £5 concessions.



SLOPE-TEND-BIG

Friday 11 - Friday 18 November, Grand Union



This visual arts project by Mathew Parkin explores the subject of intimacy, transforming the gallery into a queer social space via a changing programme of installations and events.

Included in the presentation is a screening of Derek Jarman's rarely seen film about 1980s gay nightlife in London, *Will You Dance With Me?*. A club night with DJs and live performers also features.

Free event.

JOE BLACK: MEET ME AT THE ELDORADO

Friday 11 November, 8pm, The Old Joint Stock

Notorious cabaret reprobate Joe Black here evokes the spirit of the infamous 1920s Berlin nightclub, The Eldorado.

With new songs and original stories presented alongside tributes to more recognisable artists, Black invites the audience to settle back and enjoy an evening of fun, filth and frivolity that pays homage to the decadent Weimar Berlin nightlife.

A maestro of the cabaret genre, Joe routinely blurs the line between utterly sinister and completely delightful.





LOOKING FOR JOHN

Thursday 16 - Saturday 19 November, 8pm, The REP

This newly commissioned piece, performed and written by Tony Timberlake, is a powerful, heartfelt and comic story of one man's obsession with a forgotten hero (Birmingham-born Olympic figure skater John Curry) and his efforts to return his name to the spotlight.

The performance on Thursday 17 November is followed by a free post-show discussion with Timberlake and the show's director, Tessa Walker.

Tickets from £10. 2:30pm Saturday matinee also available.



BIG GIRL'S BLOUSE

Sunday 20 November, 8pm, mac Birmingham

Taking place on Trans Day Of Remembrance and featuring as part of the SHOUT Community Day at mac Birmingham, Big Girl's Blouse closes this year's festival.

Kate O'Donnell's award-winning show, presented earlier this year at the Soho Theatre, explores what being transgender was like in the 1970s, with Kate using humour, music and costume to tell her story. £12 / £10 concessions.



SHOUT Festival Events / Diary

10 Nov	Miss Behave's Game Show Performance / £8.00/£5.00	Club Chic
11 Nov	Joe Black: Meet Me at the Eldorado Theatre, Music / £12.00	The Old Joint Stock
12 Nov	Deep in the Heart of Me Theatre, Music / £5.00	The Wellington Hotel
12 Nov	There's No Other Except Me Visual Arts, Performance / Free	BOM
12 Nov	Cloze Theatre, Music / £10.00	The Old Joint Stock
13 Nov	It is What it is Music / Free	Sidewalk
13 Nov	MY Comedy Comedy / £10.00/£8.00	The Penthouse (Loft Lounge)
14 Nov	Departure Film / £7.50/£5.50	mac
15 Nov	Girls Lost Film / £7.50/£5.50	mac
16 Nov	The Girl King Film / £7.50/£5.50	mac
16-19 Nov	Looking For John Theatre / £13.50/£10.00	Birmingham REP
17 Nov	The New Black Film / £7.50/£5.50	mac
18-19 Nov	A Boy Named Sue Theatre / £13.50/£10.00	Birmingham REP
18 Nov	Will You Dance With Me? Club Night Music / £3 or what you can pay	Grand Union
19 Nov	Polar Literary Salon Literature / £8.00/£5.00	mac
20 Nov	SHOUT Out Community Day Performance, Community / £7.50/£5.50	mac
20 Nov	Big Girl's Blouse Theatre, Performance / £12.00/£10.00	mac
During	Slope-tend-big Visual Arts / Free	Grand Union
During	Simon Bayliss Visual Arts / Free	Eastside Projects
During	Digital Frontiers Visual Arts / Free	Millennium Point
During	Queer Pop Up Lectures Visual Arts, Talks / Free	Birmingham School of Art

For more information about the eighth annual SHOUT Festival, and to see the full programme of events, visit shoutfestival.co.uk

I'VE HAD THE TIME OF MY LIFE

A new production of Eleanor Bergstein's classic story this month visits the region. Midlands Zone popped along to rehearsals to find out more...



Thirty years after Eleanor Bergstein's classic story of a whirlwind holiday romance first took cinemas by storm, its now almost equally iconic stage adaptation is back on the road with an all-new cast and creative team. Directed by Federico Bellone, this new *Dirty Dancing* UK tour has been specially designed to adapt readily to differently sized stages, allowing it to visit more venues than ever before. This month, the smash-hit show stops off at the Regent Theatre in Stoke-on-Trent and the Wolverhampton Grand before moving on to Coventry's Belgrade Theatre early in the New Year. We spoke to the *Dirty Dancing* On Tour team to find out more about how the magic is made.

"I think for the first time, we've gone for a very realistic look," explains Federico Bellone. "Basically, we've taken the famous picture of the resort where they shot the movie and tried to theatricalise that here. We'll be going out to venues that were not able to house previous versions of the show, but it should still be spectacular. We have three revolves on stage, so it's quite intricate. We've also tried to make the pace even faster - without rushing through it, of course."

"There's a huge pressure to get the balance right," adds choreographer Gillian Bruce, "because everybody knows this show, so you have to look at the main ingredients and try to keep those, while also making it a little bit different. I was very careful with choosing the cast. The look had to be right, and the sexiness had to be right. I actually wanted to push that a little bit further than in the film, to make it even more 'dirty' - without becoming vulgar, obviously, and still making sure it was right for the era."

These continual changes and reinventions - both large and small - are part of what makes every *Dirty Dancing* live experience feel special, even more than a decade after the show made its stage debut. Carlie Milner, who plays the unlucky Penny Johnson, has also starred in previous incarnations of the show, but is constantly inspired by the team around her to work through new approaches to the part.

"Of course everyone will have a different take on



things," she says, "and the people around you give you more information, which you just kind of absorb into your performance. It's been lovely to recreate the show with a new vision - your ideas do change over time, and my own personal take on it has definitely changed. I've found things in the story that I hadn't really thought about before. I loved the old version but I'm really looking forward to touring this one too."

Joining more experienced cast members like Milner are the newcomers such as Lewis Griffiths and Katie Hartland, who lead the show as the iconic young couple Johnny and Baby.

"Stepping into Patrick [Swayze's] shoes, I do feel like I'm a bit in his shadow, as anyone would, because he made the part completely his own," Griffiths confesses. "I'm not trying to imitate him at all, but as Gillian said, we've all got to take parts of what's already in the film and make it work for us without replicating too much. This is definitely going to be Lewis Griffiths' Johnny Castle as opposed to Patrick Swayze's Johnny Castle."

Hartland agrees. "I think for me the biggest challenge has been taking such an iconic film and trying to make it your own as much as you can. Especially with the dancing, because I'm not half as experienced and amazing as some of the others, so it's been a real thrill getting to dance like that and to be pushed in that way."

Among the things that have made *Dirty Dancing* such a huge success is the fact that it straddles different theatrical genres. It isn't quite a conventional stage musical. Not only are the songs performed by a separate band rather than sung by the main cast members, but the style of the dancing and staging is also very different.

"*Dirty Dancing* is definitely, absolutely a play, but it's a play with a lot of music," says director Bellone. "I think quite often when

people go to see the show for the first time, they expect it to be a musical and are surprised when the cast don't sing. I first went to see it back in 2007, I think it was, and at the time I thought that they should sing more. But when I met Eleanor Bergstein, she explained to me the reasons why she was absolutely against that, and I had to accept that she was perfectly right."

"It's quite a difficult show to choreograph because it's all couple work," says choreographer Bruce. "I think sometimes it can get so busy that the audience doesn't really know where to look. I've tried to give more focus to the numbers and allow the audience to enjoy everything without being forced to just look at one thing at a time."

"That's why a lot of people will say that the musical numbers are so tricky to get right," adds Bellone. "They're not meant to look like the numbers in a typical musical, but at the same time, they still have to be beautiful. You have to focus on specific effects. On film it's much easier because you can use close-ups and focus in on details, but on stage, you have all these people there and the audience can look anywhere they want to."

This distinctive format also puts additional pressure on the cast members, requiring everyone to be on top form from both dramatic and physical standpoints. Add to this the fact that, with *Dirty Dancing* being such a huge, worldwide phenomenon, the expectations of audiences across the country are enormous.

"It's quite rare to have something that's so heavy both in terms of the dance and the character aspects," says Milner. "Physically this version is very demanding and there's a lot going on. You want to make sure you do it correctly, but there's only so much time, and that in itself is quite difficult for a performer. From a character point of view, it's also quite difficult. Obviously for me, Penny

goes through a lot of trauma, and so I have to find ways to relate with all of the complex emotions she experiences."

"I consider myself an actor rather than a dancer," says Griffiths, "and while I don't think there's anything that I can't learn and get into, it's been challenging being in a show involving so much dancing. Johnny's character is so completely in his comfort zone in the dance studio, leading and teaching in his Cuban heels, so I'm having to find ways of taking Lewis' insecurities and turning them into Johnny's strengths."

"All the characters are going through their own stories," says Milner, "but they're also all intertwined, so it's all about trying to keep that link and that continuity running through the show, while also bringing out your character's own personal journey. So yeah, it's hard!"

The rehearsal process may be long and challenging, demanding absolute dedication from the team, but as things begin to fall into place, every one of them agrees that the time and energy they've poured in has been well worth it.

"The casting for this show is unbelievable," says Griffiths. "When I got the role of Johnny, it was amazing, but it felt a bit like being at the bottom of a very large mountain. I'm really thankful that, with the help of these two and all the crew and creatives, I'm already halfway up that mountain, and once we get to the top I think it's gonna be a hell of a show. I'm really honoured to be a part of that."

Dirty Dancing is at Stoke's Regent Theatre from 7 to 12 November, the Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from 28 November to 3 December, the Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, from 30 January to 4 February and the New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, from 29 May to 3 June.

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Birmingham Pride organisers proudly award £40,000 to local charities



Organisers of Birmingham Pride have awarded three local charities a grand total of £40,000 to help causes benefitting the LGBT community in the city.

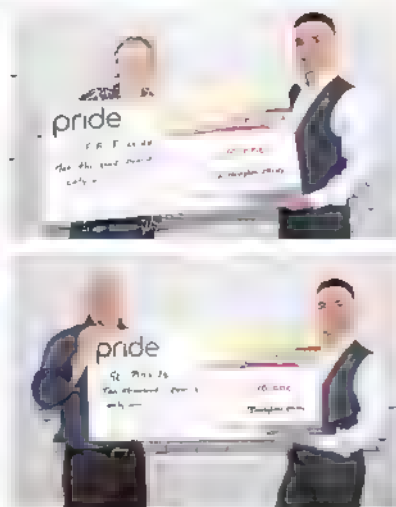
One of the beneficiaries of proceeds from this year's event was the city's Birmingham LGBT organisation.

Birmingham Pride Festival Director Lawrence Barton was delighted to award £20,000 to the organisation, commenting, "Birmingham Pride is a fantastic celebration and party in the city that's enjoyed by tens of thousands of people. So to be able to stage a great party, and also

be able to raise funds for worthwhile causes at the same time, is very humbling.

"Birmingham LGBT undertake vital work within the LGBT community, and we're pleased to be able to award £20,000 to them to help support additional LGBT initiatives."

On behalf of Birmingham LGBT, Steph Keeble commented: "I would like to say a big thank you to Birmingham Pride for this extremely generous donation. The £20,000 award will enable us to continue delivering vital services to the LGBT community."



The two other organisations to receive money, £10,000 each, were St Basis and SIFA Fireside. Both charities work with young people aged 16 to 25 who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Lawrence Barton commented: "St Basils and SIFA Fireside are two dynamic Birmingham charities which work with some of the most vulnerable adults in our society including those within the LGBT community, and we're pleased to be able to award £20,000 to them to help the plight of LGBT homelessness."

Thousands of gay men to be pardoned for historic sex offences

The UK government has announced that thousands of gay and bisexual men convicted of historic gay sex offences are to receive posthumous pardons.

The decision will mean formal pardons for those convicted over consensual same-sex relationships before homosexuality was decriminalised in the UK.

The pardons honour a government commitment made after the World War Two code-breaking genius Alan Turing, who was chemically castrated because he was gay, received a posthumous pardon in 2013.

The move, dubbed the Turing Law, will see deceased people who were convicted of sex

ual acts that are no longer deemed illegal receive an automatic pardon.

Anybody still living who's been convicted of similar offences can already apply through the Home Office to have their names cleared through a derogated process, which can remove any mentions of an offence from criminal record checks. However, under this latest bill, those still alive will also receive a new automatic statutory pardon.

The Government plans to secure the change by supporting Lib Dem peer Lord Sharkey's amendment to the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 through the Policing and Crime Bill.

Popular Birmingham gay venue to receive refurbishment

A popular Birmingham gay bar and restaurant is to undergo a major refurbishment this month.

The award-winning Loft Lounge, located on Bromsgrove Street in the heart of the city's gay village, will benefit from a top-to-toe overhaul - the first major refit the venue has undergone since it opened more than ten years ago.

The new-look venue will feature a brand new food menu, a revised cocktail list, and will see the introduction of craft beers.

The all-new Loft Lounge is scheduled to be unveiled to the public towards the end of November.

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Former Midlands footballer says time is right for openly gay Premier League players

Ex-Aston Villa and Birmingham City striker Chris Sutton has said that there's never been a better time than now for a footballer to come out as gay.

Sutton's comments come after Football Association chairman Greg Clarke told a Commons Select Committee that he feared players would receive "significant abuse" from fans.

Sutton said that Clarke's comments may create another unintended obstacle by suggesting that football wasn't ready for its gay players to come out.

Writing in the Daily Mail, Sutton added: "Once the first gay footballer comes out, others will follow. There has never been a better time for a footballer to come out and say 'I am gay'. Few footballers would certainly be supportive. It will be the best thing that happens to the homophobia debate.

"I'm convinced 99.9% of people would share the same view, so are we now setting the levels based on how the 0.1% would react?"

Lottery cash boost ensures Derby Pride 2017 will go ahead



A lottery cash boost of £5,350 will ensure that next year's Derby Pride festival goes ahead

The 2017 edition of the event takes place on Saturday 9 September and will feature live music, stalls, an awards ceremony and a disco.

Speaking to the Derby Telegraph, Derbyshire LGBT+ Pride committee member Andy Brown said: "The lottery's fund has given us the money to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the 1967 partial decriminalisation of homosexuality, and all the subsequent acts since. It should enable us to have a really good Pride next year. In 2015, we had something approaching 2,000 people, but hopefully, as we're so well ahead for next year - and with all the publicity help from the lottery - we'll get even more people."

East Midlands woman to run London Marathon for LGBT Foundation

A woman from Nottingham is set to run the 2017 London Marathon in an effort to raise funds for gay charity the LGBT Foundation.

Georgina Ward, who was born in Leicester, says she isn't a seasoned athlete or fundraiser, but feels it's now time to raise money for an LGBT charity.

Georgina, or George for short, told us: "I've never done any charity work for LGBT charities before because I think you always feel like someone else is or will."

"I met my partner, Kasia, last year in Nottingham, and we're getting married in 2017. All of a sudden, something clicked. Without the work of charities like the LGBT Foundation fighting for equal marriage rights, getting married isn't something that we'd be able to do."

"Also, my partner is Polish, and the struggle for equal rights and recognition of same-sex marriage is still very real there. They aren't in the same position that we're in here in the UK."

"Kasia's told me stories of marching in Pride parades back in Poland and having the police walk on either side of you to protect you from rocks being hurled at you and people threatening to kill you."

"I think it takes hearing something like that from someone who you love to make you realise what a strong position we're in now."



pared to other countries, how much work these charities are doing, but also how much work there is still to be done.

"This is the reason I wanted to run for the LGBT Foundation."

The organisation, formerly known as the Lesbian & Gay Foundation, is a national charity delivering a wide range of services to lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans communities. It believes in a fair and equal society where all LGBT people can achieve their full potential.

George has set herself an initial challenge of raising £2,000 for the charity, with donations being taken on her JustGiving page.

Oscar-winning actress to star in new BBC gay drama

Oscar-winning actress Vanessa Redgrave is to star in a BBC One drama exploring gay love across the decades.

The two-part *Man in an Orange Shirt* presents two gay love stories taking place 60 years apart. The stories are linked by family, and by a painting that holds a secret which echoes down through the generations. The drama is set in the 1940s, '50s and the present day.

Its synopsis explains: "Two love stories, 60 years apart, chart the challenges and huge change to gay lives from the Second World War to the present. In 1944, British Army Captain Michael Berryman meets war artist Thomas March in Southern Italy while chaos reigns all around them."

"Despite having a young fiancé, Flora, waiting at home for him, straight-faced Michael finds himself falling for Thomas' bohemian charms."

"In 2017, an ageing Flora (Redgrave) looks on as her grandson, Adam, tentatively forms a relationship with his client Steve in a more accepting world."

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men, and men who have
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Celts Narborough Road Sauna Clinic:

Day: Tuesdays

Time: 3pm - 6pm

Place: 38 Narborough Road Leicester LE3 0BQ

City Celts Sauna Clinic:

Day: Wednesdays

Time: 3pm - 6pm

Place: 33 New Bond Street, Leicester, LE1 4RQ



Day: Thursdays

Time: 3pm - 6pm

Place: 61 Bedford Street Leicester LE1 3LR



You can also check out Trade
Sexual Health

www.tradesexualhealth.com

Birmingham LGBT's domestic violence service to continue beyond pilot stage



Birmingham LGBT has announced that its domestic violence service is continuing to run beyond the initial pilot stage, thanks to funding from the Henry Smith foundation.

The service exists to support anyone in Birmingham and the surrounding areas who identifies as LGBT, is aged 16-plus, and is experiencing abuse from a partner, ex-partner or family member

One of the main purposes of the service is to support people to understand their options, and to stay as safe as possible whilst facing abuse. The service also recognises that the impact of an abusive relationship can be far-reaching, and aims to provide a level and type of support that meets an individual's needs

Thanks to funding from the Birmingham Community Safety Partnership, there is also a Birmingham LGBT-run publicity campaign taking place throughout November

Such publicity is still crucial. While society as a whole is becoming more aware of domestic violence and the culture of tolerance towards domestic violence is decreasing, this is not yet the case with regard to abuse within LGBT relationships.

Evidence suggests that around one in four LGBT people will experience domestic abuse in their lifetime - and it's likely that, for bisexual and trans* people, the numbers are far higher. This was backed up by research funded by the Birmingham Community Safety Partnership in 2014

Despite these high numbers, there's still very limited awareness of the subject, leading to many victims suffering alone, being unable to identify what's happening to them and not knowing where to go for support.

Birmingham LGBT is hoping that, with a focused campaign including a billboard in the

gay village and posters on number 50 buses, there will be an increased understanding not only of the issue at hand, but also of the support on offer

Anna Robottom, Independent Domestic Violence Advocate at Birmingham LGBT, comments: "We're really pleased to be able to continue to offer this crucial service beyond the pilot stage

"Over the last 18 months, we've been able to offer a potentially life-saving service to many members of Birmingham's LGBT community, but there will be many more we've not yet reached. Our hope is that by running a further publicity campaign, we'll be able to reach more of these people and spread the message that domestic violence happens in our communities too, and that there's specialist support available to those who may need it."

Sexual health charity launches Leicester sexuality, gender identity & faith project



Trade Sexual Health this month begins running a series of engagement activities to provide open discussions between Leicester's LGBT and faith communities.

The initiative, launched in partnership with St Philip's Centre, is funded by Leicester City Council's Community Engagement Fund

The initial awareness-raising seminar will introduce the project, explain its purpose and look at some of the research behind it

There will also be an opportunity to hear LGBT people of faith explain their journey towards reconciling their sexuality, gender identity and religious beliefs

Following the event, there will be a series of closed, shared conversations between community faith leaders, faith community change-makers and LGBT individuals. The purpose of the conversations will be to gather information and to action the best methods of understanding and supporting LGBT people of faith, in so doing increasing the resilience between the city's faith and LGBT communities

Places for the event are limited, so if you're passionate about taking positive steps

towards change, you're encouraged to sign up now

Trade is particularly interested in accessing input from the following: Faith community leaders; members of faith communities or congregations, lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people of faith; faith and chaplaincy services and organisations, including committee members, other members and volunteers and changemakers who feel passionate about issues around sexuality, gender identity and/or belief/religion

The opening seminar takes place on Wednesday 16 November from 10.30am at the Queen's Building at De Montfort University

To register your interest, visit tradesexualhealth.com



Alexis Savage

**Trans Sexual Health
Outreach Worker
Birmingham LGBT**

Born: Rustington

Star sign: Cancer

Age: 54

About Alexis

Where did you grow up?

On a small council estate in rural Sussex.

Single or attached?

Single

What makes you happy?

When younger, a stack of collectible Marvel and DC Comics would have raised a smile. Nowadays, maybe the look on my dog's face when she knows walkies are about to happen. That always cheers me up.

What makes you sad?

I rarely 'feel' sad (depressed on occasion but that is a separate thing to sadness) but I do have a good cry at emotionally manipulative dramas. Oh, and 'The Wizard of Oz', that always sets me off.

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

I'm tempted to say 'been there done that' but otherwise I'm pretty much okay with myself. Mind you, my friends might say that I could do with having my 'lazy gene' surgically removed.

What's been the most embarrassing thing you've done in your life?

Not realising I'd been sick in a friend's sock drawer. This was many years ago, by the way.

Coming Out

When did you first know you were trans?

It's taken nearly all my life so far to reach the point where I know who I am. My psychiatric assessment (which is part and parcel of progressing through the gender

clinics) said I was deeply, deeply repressed. I always 'knew' there was something not right but had neither the language nor awareness to identify just what 'it' was. I can answer the question this way as well. I always felt something stir within me when I read stories in the Sunday papers about 'sex changes'. It excited, thrilled and scared me all at the same time. I cross-dressed when younger but was so scared of being found out that I effectively put all that in the closet, locked the door, wrapped a length of chain around it and entombed the whole thing in concrete. I can answer the question this way as well. October 16 2011 was the day I finally gathered up a lot of my masculine baggage and donated the whole kit and caboodle to charity. And on that day, I began to live as me, rather than the shadow creature I'd been for nearly half a century. So for me, there's no definitive answer, more a process of small steps and decisions that led me to where I am now.

Who was the first person you told?

My ex-wife. We'd separated in 2008 (nothing to do with Trans), and by the time I told her, she was living in Birmingham. We met outside the rag market. She wasn't expecting to see who she saw, and with hindsight it could've been really disastrous. But from then on, she's been nothing but supportive, as has everyone in my life who knew me 'before'. This level of support and acceptance isn't something that a lot of people have in their lives. It does make things much easier.

What would you say to a youngster trying to come to terms with their gender identity?

There isn't one single, easy-to-follow template that fits all circum-

stances and all people. What's 'good' advice for person A could be like poison to person B. It's the support structure the young person has which is important, be that friends or family. Interaction with other young Trans people can also be an important factor. Here at Birmingham LGBT Centre we do have a youth group specifically for young trans people aged between 13 and 19.

I spoke to a young person this morning about 'coming out', funny enough, and there was no easy, one-size-fits-all answer for him, but it helped him being able to talk to someone about it. And the importance of being able to talk to someone can't be overstated.

Although it seems I've dodged the question, despite it seeming an easy one, it's quite a difficult one to answer.

Your Career

When you were younger, what did you want to be?

To be honest, I had no real idea. At one stage, I applied to study journalism, had an interview but was coming down with chicken pox at the time, so performed less than well! Librarianship also appealed, but by the time I was 18 I'd had enough of education, so the thought of university didn't set my pulse racing. So after a period of unemployment and a stint on what used to be called a Youth Opportunity Programme (computer programming, totally unsuited to that sort of work but got me off 'the dole'), I just sort of drifted into the Civil Service with no real thought about staying. I ended up shuffling papers for 26 years.

I left in 2008 and did a stack of voluntary work, the high points being working with young homeless people and a HIV charity. In

that period of time, I lost a fairly good income but discovered a deep satisfaction in doing this work.

What's your role at Birmingham LGBT?

I'm its Trans Sexual Health Outreach Worker.

What are the challenges of your job?

Helping to develop (in partnership with Umbrella) a sexual health clinic specifically for Trans people. We've successfully been running the clinic since July. Currently we're open on the fourth Friday of every month between 4pm and 7pm at Birmingham LGBT Centre. It's a sexual health clinic, so we offer the full range of STI testing, including HIV testing. We also provide services such as cervical smear tests (for those with a cervix) and liver function tests, which are very important if taking hormones.

What are the highlights?

Helping to get the clinic up and running. This is an important development for the city, and the Trans community in particular. But on a daily basis, meeting some great people within the wider LGBT community and knowing that, in some way, we're providing support and help when needed.

How does the role help the LGBT community?

In terms of the clinic, being able to provide a safe space that people can access without fear of being judged or (crucially for Trans people) being misgendered or having the incorrect pronouns used. To my mind, if people are confident in accessing sexual health services, this can only have a positive impact on their wellbeing.

Where do you see yourself in five years' time?

Hopefully able to retire! But returning to the real world, if I can still be doing something worthwhile and enjoyable, I'll settle for that.

Time Out

Where do you like to go on a night out?

Any place where I can hold a conversation without having to shout.

What do you do to relax?

I started running a few months ago and was amazed to discover I liked it. Unfortunately, I'm currently unable to run due to having plantar fasciitis, which has been blooming painful. Otherwise, spending far too much time playing Witcher 3 on the X Box.

What do you enjoy on telly?

Generally something that makes me laugh, so shows like *Would I Lie To You* and *Mock The Week*. And those are usually on catch-up.

What was the last album or track you bought?

A good friend gave me the soundtrack to a brilliant game called *Life Is Strange: Obstacles* by Syd Mat-

ters is my favourite track. Before that, Bastille's album, *All This Bad Blood*.

Which one website do you spend the most time on?

Facebook - although I never circulate cat pictures, grumpy or otherwise.

Which type of holiday do you prefer?

A cheap one!

Quickfire

Who's your favourite actor?

Clint Eastwood. Only because the old spaghetti westerns are still brilliant.

What's your favourite book?

What a question! Okay, I'll plump for *It* by Stephen King. Not necessarily for the horror content but the evocation of growing up and the friendships made and lost.



Half empty or half full?

Generally an optimist, so half full.

Drink?

First cup of tea in the morning.

What's your favourite food?

Another difficult one. My mum used to make a baked bean, egg and cheese flan, which I still do once in a while. Otherwise, a decent curry.

Madonna or Lady Gaga?

Madonna.

If you could take a selfie with one person, alive or dead, who would it be?

Charles Dickens

And how about your favourite

Sexual Health Clinic for Trans People

Clinic Trans

4th Friday every month, 4pm - 7pm
at Birmingham LGBT Centre



Birmingham LGBT

Supported by



umbrella

Next Clinic Dates

Call: 0121 643 0821

sexualhealth@bglbt.org

www.bglbt.org/sexual-health

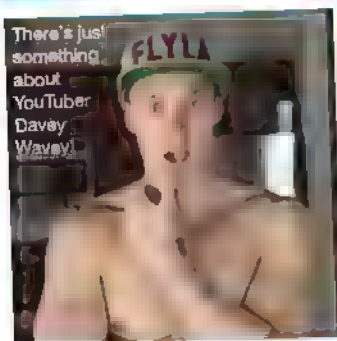


THE VIRAL ROUND UP

HERE'S WHAT WE'VE BEEN LOOKING AT ONLINE...

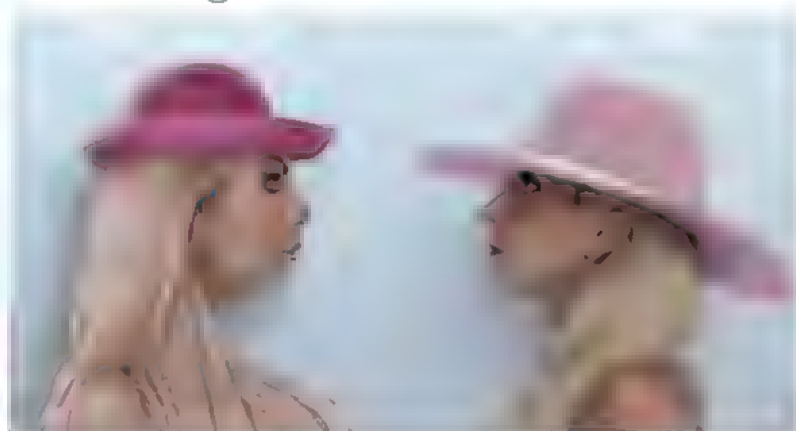
CELEB SNAPS!

OUR FAVOURITE PICTURES FROM INSTAGRAM...



We all do it - spend hours on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube. Often, we're distracted from what we should be doing by cat videos and funny pranks - or by something feelgood that's been shared so much on the net it's officially classed as 'viral'. Well, here are some of Midlands Zone's favourites from the past month!

RuPaul's Drag Race star **ALASKA THUNDERFUCK** throws shade at Lady Gaga in new video



In a hilariously funny video, RuPaul's Drag Race star Alaska Thunderfuck throws some shade towards Lady Gaga and her new persona, Joanne.

The parody gives you tips on how to be just like 'regular girl' Joanne, including info about dance moves, wardrobe and, of course, make-up and hair.

You can watch it here: youtu.be/UzbYVXcKrcU

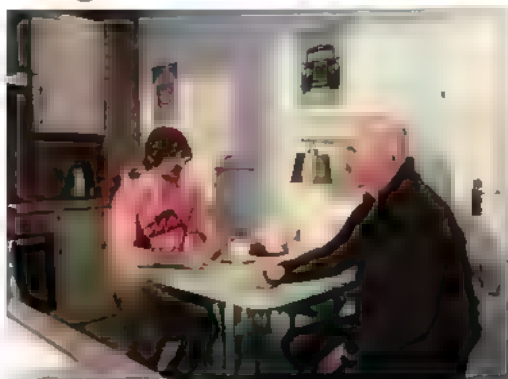
When **COMING OUT GOES WRONG**, in funny sketch for National Coming Out Day

We all know how hard it can be coming out to our family. That's why last month's National Coming Out Day was so important. Coming out is a serious subject, but this hilarious video, made to coincide with the special day, put an unexpected twist on the situation.

The G-Word focuses on the character of Daniel, whose coming out to his dad doesn't go exactly according to plan.

Watch the video here:

youtu.be/nWhTebMG40w



20

MINUTES

WHAT CAN
YOU DO?

WE CAN TELL YOU
YOUR **HIV STATUS...**

**HIV Testing
• Week •**

19th-27th Nov

www.20mintesting.co.uk

#TimeToTest

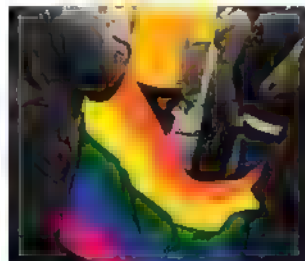
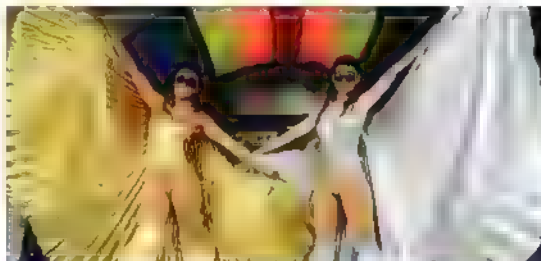
WOLVES PRIDE celebrates LGBT life despite wet weather

Wet and soggy weather failed to dampen the spirits of Midlands festival-goers at last month's Wolverhampton Pride event.

The day began in the time-honoured manner, with a parade through the city streets. As usual, the procession was led by the always-fantastic Someone At The Door samba band, whose contribution ensured that everybody was in the very best of spirits for the day ahead.

Also joining the parade was veteran gay and human rights activist Peter Tatchell, who is also a patron of local charity LGBT Network Wolverhampton.

The day concluded with singing, cabaret performances and a number of well-received speeches.



TAKE A TEST UK.COM

Sexual Health
postal kits now
available

Order your ***FREE HIV test kit now!**

*Free postal HIV tests kits are available to people with a Birmingham postcode. Use voucher code *CF0716 (valid for a limited period). Other Sexual Health postal test kits are also available. - supported by Saving Lives (Charity no: 1144855)

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Heart of England **NHS**
NHS Foundation Trust

LGBT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE A DIFFERENT CLOSET



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HAPPENS IN OUR COMMUNITIES TOO
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ON 0121 6430821



BIRMINGHAM COMMUNITY
SAFETY PARTNERSHIP
www.birminghamcsp.org.uk



Birmingham LGBT

In an emergency
call
999

Galop
National LGBT Domestic Violence Helpline
0300 999 5428

Respect
Men's Advice Line
0808 801 0327

Women's Aid & Refuge
24-hour National Domestic Violence Freephone Helpline
0808 2000 247

 Birmingham LGBT
Supported by  umbrella

Sexual Health Services for LGBT People

Here to support you – not to judge you!

Our free and confidential services include:

- ☐ One-to-one support with friendly and professional LGBT-aware staff
- ☐ Specialist services and staff available to support Trans people, Lesbian and Bisexual Women, Black African, African Caribbean, South Asian and Middle Eastern Men who have sex with men
- ☐ Weekly walk-in nurse-led sexual health clinic (Thursdays 12.00-19.15 with last walk-in slot at 18.30)
- ☐ Free condoms, lube, dams and gloves
- ☐ Free HIV and STI testing
- ☐ Peer mentoring support
- ☐ Support around domestic and sexual abuse
- ☐ Referral to counselling and peer support

**Contact the Sexual Health Team
at the Birmingham LGBT Centre:**

 birminghamlgbt.org.uk
 sexualhealth@blgbt.org
 0121 643 0821

 umbrellahealth.co.uk
 0121 237 5700

HIV TESTING WEEK



With thousands of gay and bisexual men being diagnosed with HIV each year, National HIV Testing Week is more important than ever before...

National HIV Testing Week, run by Terrence Higgins Trust on behalf of HIV Prevention England, kicks off on Saturday 19 November

The initiative, started in 2011, urges people to take a painless, simple and quick test - particularly those who are most at risk of contracting HIV, including men who have sex with men and black African people.

Testing for HIV is now quicker and easier than ever before, with a wide range of testing options available to make the experience as user-friendly as possible. These range from postal tests to GUM clinics, community sites and home testing. Early testing and diagnosis are essential in combating transmission and the HIV epidemic.

Dr Michael Brady, Medical Director for Terrence Higgins Trust, said: "We know that one in six people living with HIV are undiagnosed. Testing puts you in control and, thanks to treatment, will stop you from getting seriously ill, enable you to live a normal lifespan and prevent you from passing the virus on to anyone else."

Nana Bonsu, a 34-year-old self-employed man, said: "I'm very passionate about HIV prevention because I'm from one of the most at-risk communities. I make a point of testing for HIV every 12 months. It's simple - if people get tested and are positive, they get help, they get treatment. If they test and are negative, they seek to remain negative."

The National HIV Testing Week campaign is backed by celebrity GP Dr Christian Jessen, who said: "I'm a fervent champion of National HIV Testing Week. I often find that people are really afraid of taking a HIV test - it can sound like a daunting prospect, but honestly it isn't."

"Many people living with HIV don't know they have it and are therefore likely to unwittingly pass on the virus. On the other hand, those who get a positive result and onto effective treatment can live a long and healthy life, and can't pass on HIV to others. It's a no-brainer."

"The challenge is now to bust the stigma that stops people getting tested in the first place. The sooner we can do that, the quicker we can stop HIV."

The latest Public Health England report shows that in 2015, 96% of people living with a diagnosed HIV infection were receiving HIV treatment. The great news is that 95% of all those treated have very low levels of virus, which means they're extremely unlikely to pass on their infection.

Six thousand-and-ninety-five people were diagnosed with HIV during 2015. Most of these people acquired HIV while living in the UK.

Late HIV diagnosis remains an ongoing concern, with 40% diagnosed at an advanced stage of infection. While late diagnoses have come down from 48% in 2011, rates remain unacceptably high, particularly among hetero-

sexual men (55%) and women (49%).

Gay and bisexual men remain the group at highest risk from HIV in the UK, with 3,320 'men who have sex with men' diagnosed in 2015.

So where can you get tested?

Working with its partner, Birmingham LGBT, Umbrella will be offering tests in Birmingham's Gay Village throughout the two weekends of National HIV Testing Week, with a mobile clinic sited outside popular pubs and clubs.

Outreach workers will be raising awareness of the importance of regular testing in key community areas in the city.

Umbrella partners WAITS (Women Acting in Today's Society) and the alcohol & drugs charity Swanswell will be supporting HIV Testing Week with activities for their service users. Meanwhile, over in Leicestershire, in the lead-up to and throughout National HIV Testing Week, the Integrated Sexual Health Team will deliver a targeted, high-profile campaign throughout Leicestershire and Rutland, to reach people who don't normally test and encourage them to take a HIV test.

For a full list of where you can get tested, visit www.leicestersexualhealth.nhs.uk

For more information about National HIV Testing Week, visit startswithme.org.uk.

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SUN 25 DEC/TUE 03 JAN no performances MON 26/TUE 27 DEC/SUN 01/MON 02/SUN 08 JAN 2pm & 5pm FRI 06 JAN 5pm & 7:30pm SAT 07 JAN 3pm & 6pm

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WOLVERHAMPTON Civic Theatre 0870 320 7000
16 DEC wolvescivic.co.uk

BIRMINGHAM STAR CITY 08444 993 666
17 DEC 0203 375 3970

Tickets also from ticketmaster.co.uk 08444 993 666



CIRCUSOFHORRORS.CO.UK

WARNING: The Circus of Horrors contains some nudity and language of an adult nature. It is not suitable for children, babies or cars. This show contains nuts!

WORLD AIDS DAY

A TIME FOR EDUCATION, REFLECTION & CELEBRATION



WORLD AIDS DAY: SATURDAY 1 DECEMBER

AIDS first came to light some 35 years ago. World AIDS Day, now in its 29th year, is dedicated to raising people's awareness of HIV/AIDS across the globe.

The special day came about as a result of the 1988 World Summit of Ministers of Health on Programmes for AIDS Prevention. Ever since then, governments, charities, non-government organisations and international groups have implemented numerous campaigns which combine globally every 1 December.

The whole concept is about raising money, increasing awareness, fighting prejudice and improving education. It is estimated that more than 36 million people worldwide are living with HIV, including over two million children. In the UK, over 100,000 people are living with the virus, and the rate of infection continues to rise each year.

The Midlands has always taken a proactive role in promoting the day, with numerous health organisations and charities hitting the streets of the region's towns and cities to talk about HIV, AIDS, sexual health and the need to break down the stigma attached to the virus.

In Birmingham, a number of events are taking place to mark World AIDS Day. These include a vigil to remember those who've been lost to the virus over the years. Whilst details are still being finalised at the time of going to print, more information is available at bgbt.org.uk.

Over in Leicester, sexual health charity Trade is inviting people to take part in themed arts and crafts, and to discuss HIV by popping in to Trade on the evening of World AIDS Day. As always, there will be the opportunity to light a candle in remembrance.

Meanwhile in Shropshire, the folks behind the highly successful Rainbow Film Festival are hosting a special World AIDS Day screening of the movie, *Holding The Man*.



The film tells the story of Tim and John, two men who fall in love and embark on a forbidden high-school romance that ends up lasting a lifetime. Together they conquer countless prejudices and challenges to become champions of gay rights...

Holding The Man is the remarkable true-life love story of Timothy Conigrave and John Caleo. Their enduring love for each other has been immortalised in Tim's cult-classic memoir and in Tommy Murphy's award-winning stage play, from which the film has been adapted.

Holding The Man shows at The Old Market Hall Cinema, Shrewsbury, on Saturday 1 December at 8pm.

For more information and tickets, visit www.rainbowfilmfestival.org.uk

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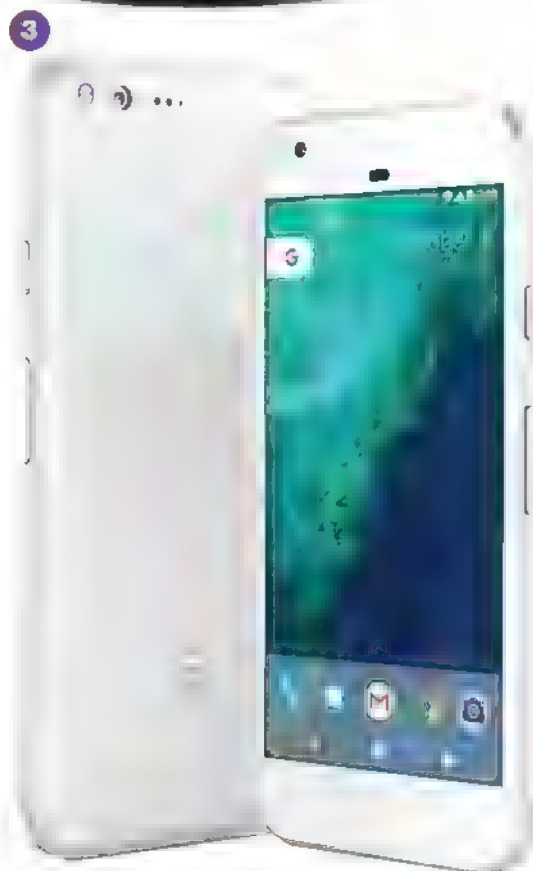
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01 Samsung Gear 360

Capture some of the best times of your life with Gear 360. From the little moments in your day to the horizons you pursue, capture life as it happens with Gear 360. The front and rear lenses each capture 180 degrees horizontally and vertically, creating a seamless and complete 360-degree field of view.

samsung.com

02 Lenovo Yoga Book

The Yoga Book by Lenovo is crafted with high-quality alloy, and adapts to four versatile modes for you to watch, type, browse and create. It also features an on-demand Halo keyboard that appears when you need it, and disappears when you don't.

From £449.99
lenovo.com

03 Google Pixel

The new Pixel and Pixel XL is the first smartphone to be entirely designed by Google. It features the highest-rated smartphone camera and a battery that lasts all day. Every photo you take is automatically backed up to the cloud for free and in full resolution. The Pixel also features the all-new and pretty darn clever Google Assistant built in.

From £599
store.google.com

04 PlayStation VR

Experience games in an entirely new way with the PlayStation VR, the new Virtual Reality system for PlayStation 4. Be at the centre of the action, immerse yourself in the detail of new worlds and feel like you're actually inside the game from the moment you begin.

From £349.99
currys.co.uk



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02



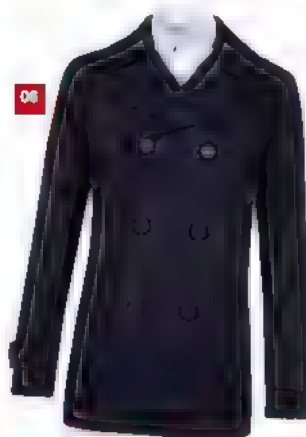
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04



05



06

GET YA COAT!

This autumn's finest jackets and coats...

01 River Island Brown Smart Wool Peacoat

Look the part with this premium woven wool double-breasted peacoat featuring classic lapels, long sleeves and a flap pocket detail

£110.00
riverisland.com

02 River Island Grey Herringbone Print Smart Overcoat

This smart herringbone wool overcoat features a lovely satin back lining with a longline fit with slim lapels, drooped shoulder and a button front.

£110.00
riverisland.com

03 Burton Khaki Heavyweight Parka Coat

To really keep out the cold this autumn, try this heavyweight Parka on for size. It even features a faux fur hood for when it rains

£55.00
burton.co.uk

04 New Look Stone Suedette Bomber Jacket

Make this suedette bomber jacket your go-to cover-up this season. Pair with black jeans and plimsolls to complement.

£10.00
newlook.com

05 New Look Navy Single Breasted Trench Coat

Add this trench coat into your casual wardrobe this season. Try layering over a zip front jacket, chinos and plimsolls to complement.

£44.99
newlook.com

06 Burton Navy Wool Blend Peacoat

This navy peacoat is made from soft, thick wool for the most comfortable fit, even when worn over winter layers. With a double-breasted fastening to the front, this winter coat is the perfect wardrobe staple.

£85.00
burton.co.uk

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MARVELLOUS MOVEMBER

There may be stubble ahead...

It's November, and that can mean only one thing - yep, it's time to grow a moustache to show your support for Movember! For the duration of the month, pledge your support and raise money and awareness for prostate and testicular cancer charities by growing your very own moustache! But before you do, check out our tash-tastic guide to styling tips and the best products to use while growing your mo...

MOUSTACHE TIPS

Cleaning

Shampoo and condition regularly. Your moustache will collect a lot of food, no matter how fine it is! As the hair is coarse, it's good to condition it often, to make it nice and soft. Great for you to touch and even nicer for those intimate moments!

Equipment

It's important that you get the right equipment to get the job done - from scissors and combs to a decent mirror, a razor and maybe even some moustache wax! Take a look at our recommended products below to get you started on your Moventure!

Trimming

When it comes to tidying up your moustache, dampen the hair - it'll make it easier to trim. Comb your moustache, making sure the hair is tidy. Use barber scissors to trim the longer, stray hairs. If you want to shorten it, run clippers over the top.

Styling

Use a new, sharp razor to highlight the outlines of the moustache. Make sure you're quite conservative in doing this - you can always go over it again. If you want a more elaborate style, use a decent moustache wax to shape it into place.

Be aware!

Your moustache will collect bits and pieces throughout the day, so be aware of troublesome foods and drinks - milk, frothy coffee, Guinness and ales, flaky pastry, candy floss and sticky buns! Carry your comb - just in case!

ESSENTIAL PRODUCTS



01 Captain Fawcett's

Moustache Wax

Captain Fawcett's superior moustache wax is handmade in England to an original recipe using only the finest natural ingredients.

Formulated to help gentlemen keep a stiff upper lip!

£8.30 www.amazon.co.uk

02 Kent Extra Small

Moustache Comb

This handmade 73mm fine-tooth moustache and beard comb is the perfect companion on your month-long moustache adventure.

£4.50 www.kentbrushes.com

03 Tweezerman Moustache

Scissors

Tweezerman Stainless Steel Moustache scissors feature sharp, straight blades for precise trimming of moustache beard and brow hairs. Large finger loops provide added control.

£10.95 www.amazon.co.uk

04 Merkur Long Handled

Classic Razor

Although light, this chrome finish, long-handled double-edged razor is built to last, and boasts the craftsmanship synonymous with the Merkur name.

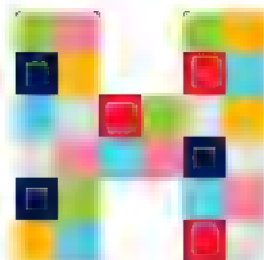
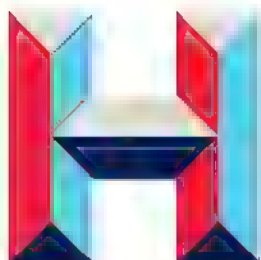
£25.99 www.shaving-shack.com

05 John Lewis Black

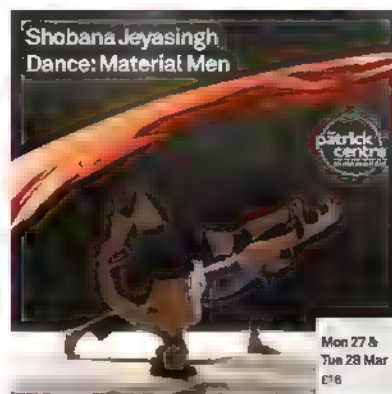
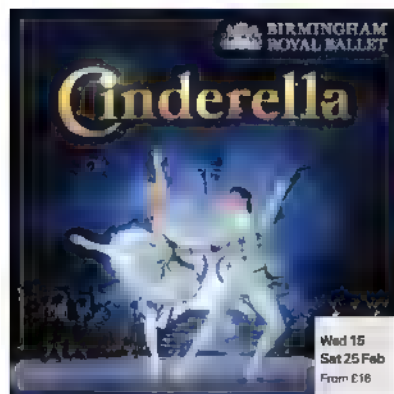
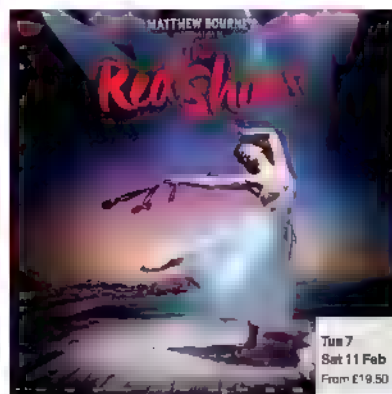
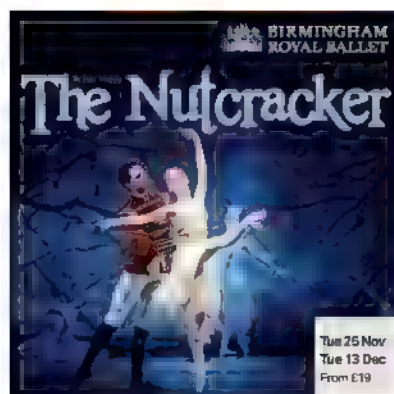
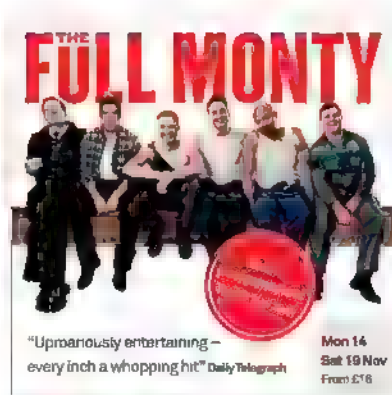
Shaving Mirror

For a super-smooth shave, choose this stand mirror with times-seven magnification.

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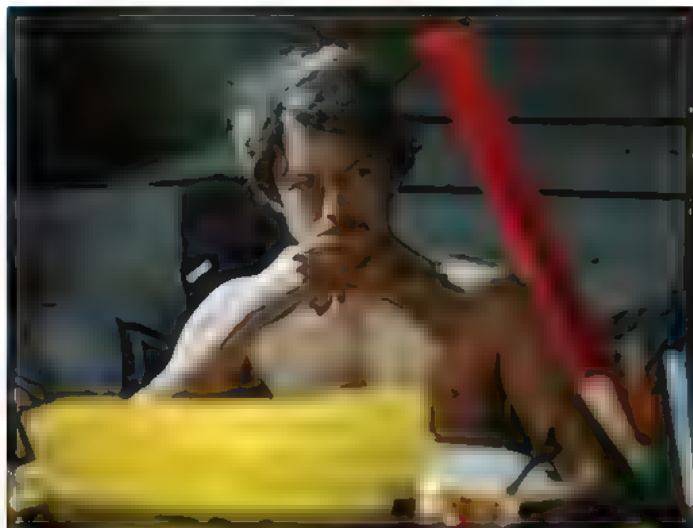
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That's Entertainment!

This month's hot DVD, music and book releases...



DVD BEAUTIFUL SOMETHING

Beautiful Something follows four men as they navigate life during one sublime night in Philadelphia.

Cute 22-year-old writer Brian continually crashes and burns with each guy he meets, but doesn't understand why.

Jim, gorgeous and full of life, isn't afraid to break hearts - except when it comes to his fortysomething lover, who's a world-renowned sculptor. It seems Drew is solely focused on his latest masterpiece and not Jim.

Then there's Bob. A successful talent agent from LA in his mid-60s, he leads a double life by being a sugar daddy while travelling on business.

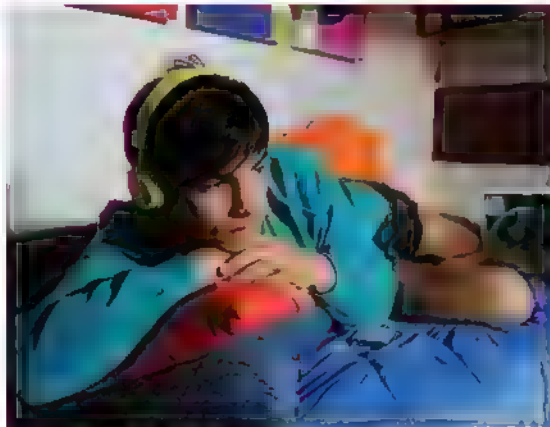
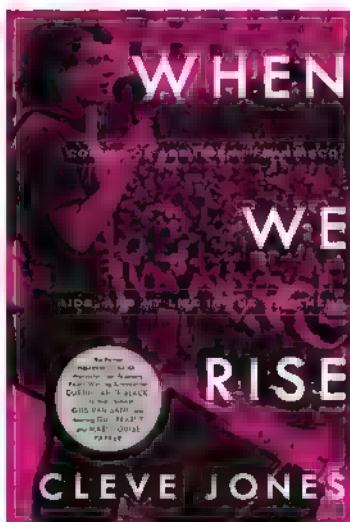
As all four comb the Philadelphia streets looking for a connection, they often settle for something quick and easy. This particular night, however, is different...

Inspired by real-life experiences, Beautiful Something explores how giving oneself to love and its necessary vulnerabilities helps us turn the corner, from seeing the world as a child to seeing the world as an adult.

BOOK WHEN WE RISE

by Cleve Jones

The partial inspiration for a forthcoming ABC television mini-series from Oscar-winner screenwriter Dustin Lance Black, long-time LGBTQ and AIDS activist Cleve Jones' memoir is a sweeping, profoundly moving account of his life, from his experiences in San Francisco in the sexually liberated 1970s, through the AIDS crisis of the 1980s and '90s, right up to his present-day involvement in the marriage-equality battle.



DVD ONE KISS

Sixteen-year-old Antonio, a typically handsome basketball player, forms the sort of intimate bond only teenagers can with Blu, a head-strong and sexually confident woman, and new-kid-on-the-block Lorenzo, an openly gay fashionista and huge Lady Gaga fan.

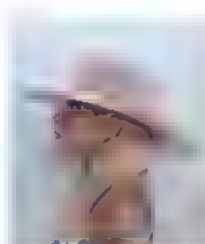
But with barely containable hormones constantly bubbling to the surface, complications inevitably arise between the best of friends, eventually creating a circumstance none could predict.

One Kiss is an always-vibrant landmark in Italian cinema, an unmissable story of outsider friendship, the limits of imagination and the consequences of honesty.

MUSIC JOANNE by Lady Gaga

Gaga's fifth studio album sees the chameleonic superstar making a break with her previous offerings by going decidedly country & western.

Lead singles Perfect Illusion and A-YO ensure that the break with her hit-making past doesn't prove to be too traumatic an experience for her legion of pop-orientated fans.



SHOUT

**FESTIVAL OF QUEER ARTS
AND CULTURE, BIRMINGHAM
10-20 NOVEMBER 2016**

**10 DAYS. 12 VENUES. OVER
25 EVENTS, PERFORMANCES,
EXHIBITIONS, AND MORE!**

Returning to Birmingham for its biggest and boldest line-up to date, SHOUT Festival brings the best in Queer and LGBT arts and culture from across the UK to the city this November. SHOUT Festival is about celebrating queer identities, voices, and experiences.

The Festival launches November 10th and features an award winning programme of the best in live performance: theatre, comedy, cabaret, visual arts, talks, film, workshops, and events at some of the city's most prominent arts venues.

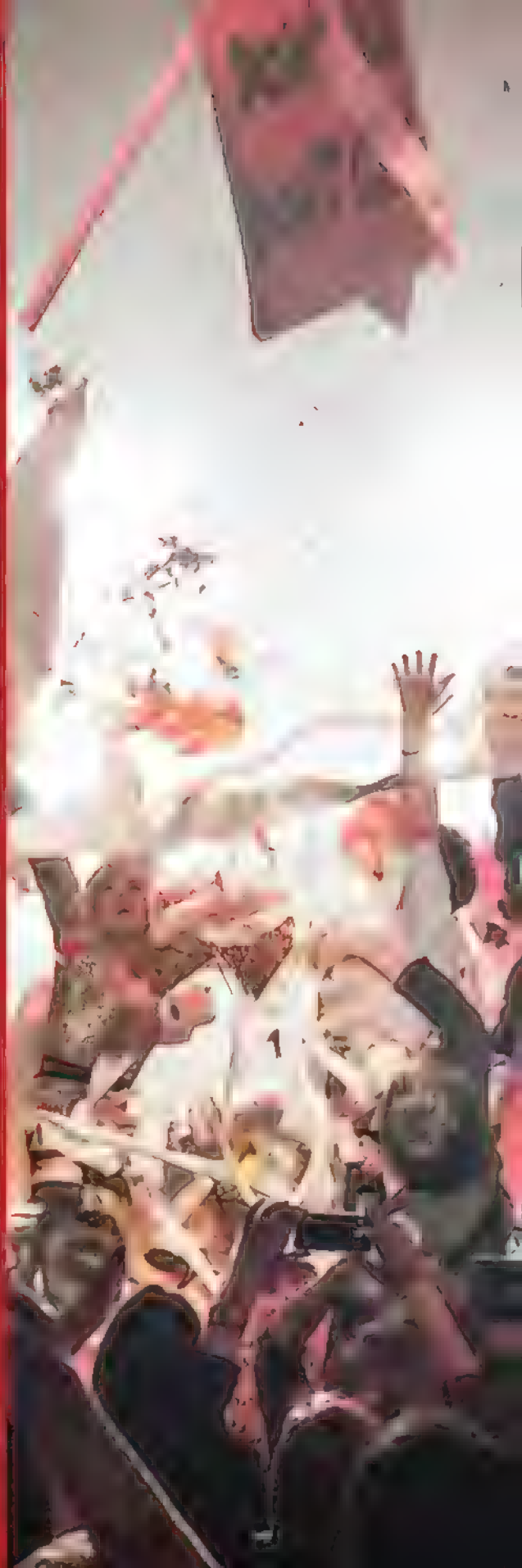
**TO FIND OUT MORE
INFORMATION, FOR FULL
LISTINGS AND DETAILS ON
BOOKING TICKETS PLEASE
VISIT OUR WEBSITE:**

WWW.SHOUTFESTIVAL.CO.UK

SHOUT Festival is a project of



Birmingham LGBT



hotlist

THIS MONTH'S HOT EVENTS & THINGS TO SEE AND DO



1

SHOUT FESTIVAL

Various venues, Birmingham,
Thurs 10 - Sun 20 November

SHOUT Festival returns to Birmingham this month, bringing with it the best in queer and LGBT artists, work and culture from across the UK and beyond.

Each November, the festival ignites debate, inspires discussion, increases representation and showcases the work of queer artists across the city.

This year's festival, the eighth edition of the event, features a programme of performing and visual arts which not only celebrates queer identities and experiences but also directly responds to the ever-changing and developing world around us.

Check out the feature on p6 & 7 for our highlights from this year's festival.

2

BALLETBOYZ: RABBIT & FICTION

Theatre Severn,
Shrewsbury, Wed 16
November

BalletBoyz' latest show has elicited all manner of superlatives from critics and audiences alike since debuting in the spring.

The production, performed by an all-male company of 10, comprises two works by internationally acclaimed choreographers

Swedish dance-maker Pontus Lidberg's eccentric and stylish Rabbit comes complete with A Ice In Wonderland overtones and contemplates loneliness and the desire for friendship.

Javier de Frutos's mischief-making Fiction is based around the responses of his dancers to the news of his tragic death, the choreographer apparently having been impaled on a shard of his own scenery! The work includes de Frutos's 'obituary', written for him by the critic Ismene Brown and gloriously narrated in camp voiceover.





3

VAMOS CUBA!

Birmingham Hippodrome, Tues 1 - Sat 5 November
 Reclaimed Cuban choreographer Nilda Guerra makes a return with her follow-up show to her well-received Havana Katana.
 Guerra's aim is to celebrate her country's music and dance, and she does so by setting the act to a playlist of classic tunes. As the music is played, lovers

like to dance and have fun, and, it would seem, there's always a lot of love in the air. Critics of the show have complained that it panders to stereotypes, but a band led by Julio Padron, a Cuban

4

BIRMINGHAM FRANKFURT CHRISTMAS MARKET

Birmingham City Centre, Thurs 17 November - Thurs 29 December

This is the largest outdoor Christmas market in the country and sits at the centre of Birmingham's festive celebrations.

Drawing crowds from across the city and further afield, the markets feature a wide range of traditional handmade toys, art, and items from throughout the

world, as well as plenty of food and drink, including German mulled wine, grilled sausages, vegetarian options, pretzels and German beer.

Carol singers, live music and an ornate carousel also feature.



5 MY COMEDY

The Penthouse Birmingham
 Tues 11 November

This popular live comedy night makes a welcome return to the SHOUT Festival. The evening is hosted by resident MC, Maureen Younger. Peddling an on-stage persona that's been described as 'a lazily saucy flirt', she makes the most of some rather lightweight material by virtue of her impeccable comic timing. Maureen's joined in the laughter-generating stakes by Jen Brister (pictured above), Jayde Adams and Birmingham funny lady Lindsey Santoro.





6

BIRMINGHAM FRANKFURT CHRISTMAS MARKET

Centenary Square, Birmingham, Sat 19 November - Sun 8 January

Ice Skate Birmingham makes a welcome return to the city centre this month. As usual located in front of the Birmingham Repertory Theatre, the popular visitor attraction can hold up to 300 people per session. Younger or inexperienced skating enthusiasts can keep upright by using special penguin skating aids, which can be booked online and in advance

8

GREASE

Curve, Leicester,
Sat 26 November - Sat 14 January

Grease is the word this Christmas as Nikolai Foster directs Curve's new production of the smash-hit musical

After a whirlwind summer romance, leather-clad greaser Danny and girl-next-door Sandy are unexpectedly reunited when she transfers to Rydell High for senior year. But can they survive the trials and tribulations of teenage life, and find true love once more?



7 MCM COMIC CON BIRMINGHAM

NEC, Birmingham,
Sat 19 - Sun 20 November

The MCM Comic Con is an absolute must for anybody with an interest in movies, gaming, comics, anime, cult television shows, gadgets, clothing and toys. It also has an impressive track record when it comes to hosting celebrity appearances - and this year is certainly no different.



9 FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM

Starring Eddie Redmayne, Katherine Waterston, Dan Fogler, Alison Sudol, Colin Farrell, Carmen Ejogo, Samantha Morton, Ezra Miller, Ron Perlman, Jon Voight Directed by David Yates (UK/USA)

By the time this epic fantasy trundles onto DVD, the name Newt Scamander should be every bit as famous as Albus Dumbledore and Severus Snape. Eddie Redmayne plays the eccentric English wizard, invented by JK Rowling in her

2001 novel, and it's Rowling who adapted the book in her screenwriting debut. Set in the same universe as Harry Potter, the events precede the first Potter film by 70 years and unfold in New York. It's there that Newt arrives after a world tour researching - and rescuing - certain magical creatures, the subject of his eponymous textbook. But shortly after his arrival in 1926 some of his fantastic beasts are accidentally released from his care. The film was intended to be the first in a trilogy, although Rowling announced last month that there would be two more editions (making it a quintet). In 3D and IMAX.

WIN! A pair of Barcode Berlin mesh undies



You should know by now that we're huge fans of underwear - so we've managed to snag another pair of pants to give away to you guys.

These Barcode Berlin backless briefs are made from a sexy, breathable mesh that hugs your crotch and behind.

Acting as a 'wonderbra' for your buge, your junk is enhanced, for a look that's good enough to eat. Elasticated jock straps support your behind.

To enter the competition, simply head to the Midlands Zone website at midlandszone.co.uk before Wednesday 30 November.

To enter this competition, simply visit midlandszone.co.uk before Wednesday 30 November.

THE UK'S BIGGEST REGIONAL GAY LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

ZOO

LET'S SHOUT ABOUT IT

MISS BEY

BIRMINGHAM PRIDE

THE UK'S BIGGEST REGIONAL GAY LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

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THIS MONTH WE HAVE YOU

OUT

NOVEMBER 2016



IMANI WILLIAMS

SAY YOU DO STAR PERFORMS
AT BRUM GAY CLUB THIS MONTH

FETISH MEN BIRTHDAY

Imani Williams
celebrates her 30th
birthday with a
special event

COMEDY TRIPLE TREAT

Regular Birmingham bar hosts
three laugh-out-loud nights this
month

LIFE IS A CABARET

Delight for drag fans as
cabaret shows come to the
Midlands

SATURDAY 12TH
NOVEMBER

BRATAVIO

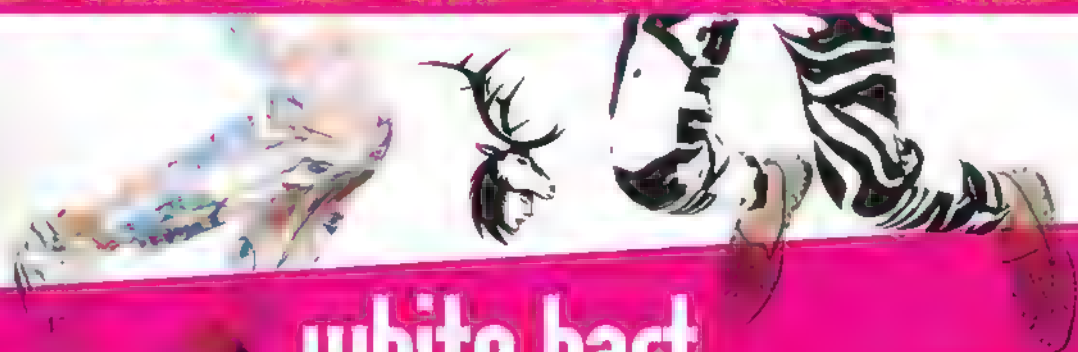
19.95 - 24.95



ENTRY
9PM - 12AM
£2 AFTER

DJ MATTY B

(CAMP, CHART, VERY CAMP, PARTY, TOTALLY CAMP!)

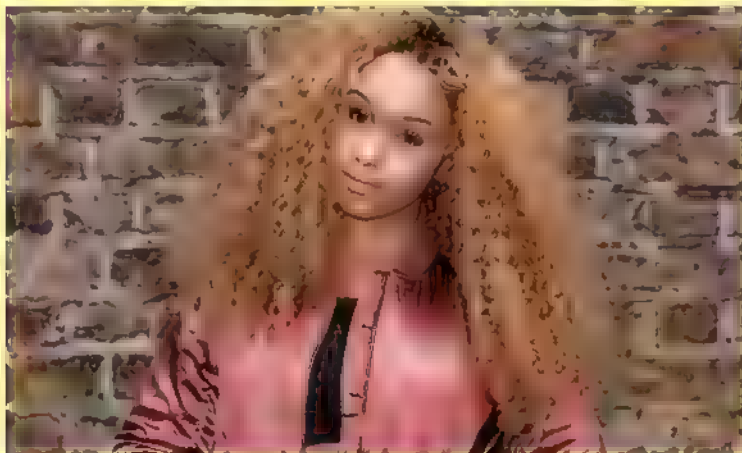


white hart

WOLVERHAMPTON

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Say You Do house vocalist **IMANI WILLIAMS** set to raise the roof at Birmingham's Nightingale Club!



There's a nice treat in store for all you Birmingham gay-scene clubbers this month, with house vocalist Imani Williams stopping off at the city's Nightingale Club.

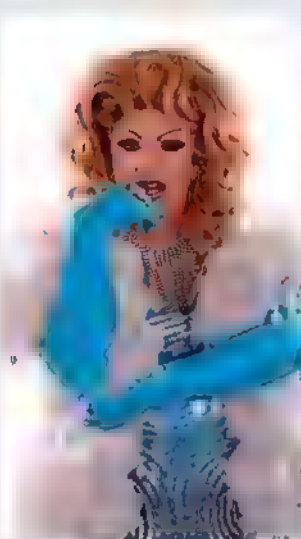
Imani's appearing live on stage and will be performing a whole host of hits, including Don't Need No Money and Say You Do. It's sure to be a night of fun, laughs and, of course, plenty of dancing.

Imani visits the award-winning venue on Saturday 27 November

Tickets to enjoy this on-your-doorstep performance by one of 2016's biggest house vocalists are available to purchase right now, priced at just £5 each. What a bargain!

THE NIGHTINGALE CLUB - BIRMINGHAM

FRIDAY NIGHT CABARET every week at popular Birmingham bar



If you're out on a Friday night and looking for great cabaret to enjoy, look no further than Birmingham's Village Inn.

Kicking off the venue's November line-up is Miss Jason on Friday the 4th. The following week sees Vicky Vivacious dropping in, followed by Miss Penny the week after. And then, as per usual, Sandra is back at the end of the month to see you into December!

If you haven't been to a cabaret night at The Village before, then you're in for a treat - so pop down asap!

THE VILLAGE INN - BIRMINGHAM

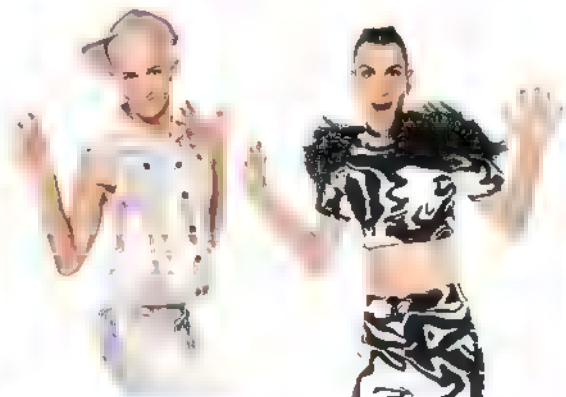
X Factor duo **BRATAVIO** to strut their stuff at Wolves gay bar

With X Factor season back in full swing, it's now time for us to get an up-close view of the hit talent show's rejected acts.

First up visiting Wolverhampton's White Hart gay venue is camp pop duo Bratavio. Hopefully they'll be

leaving their raw chicken drama at the door and instead performing some of their X Factor numbers. They appear at the venue on Saturday 12 November, with admission just £1 before midnight and £2 after

THE WHITE HART - WOLVERHAMPTON



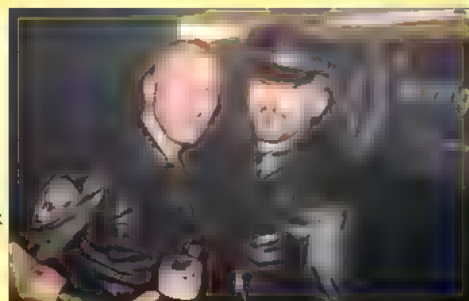
BIRMINGHAM FETISH MEN celebrate a year of fetish fun

Popular Midlands fetish group Birmingham Fetish Men are set to celebrate their first birthday this month, with a whole weekend dedicated to leather, rubber and more. Featuring a very strict dress code, the group will take on a weekend of partying in full-on fetish gear, culminating in

a huge, fun-filled event at Birmingham's popular Eden Bar on Saturday 12 November

So if you're into leather, rubber, sportswear and the skin look, why not pop along and enjoy this fantastic evening of fun ..

EDEN BAR - BIRMINGHAM



November

7 14 21 28

BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday - All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two
THE LOFT LOUNGE

MINISTRY OF POUND - with DJ Mike Emery from 9pm. Selected drinks £1. Open until 2am.
MINISTERS INN

BINGO - Bingo with Queeny
THE VILLAGE INN

SUGAR RUSH £2 entry
NIGHTINGALE CLUB

MONDAY MADNESS

offers with £1.00 drinks until 2am.
BAR JESTER

OUTSKIRTS

BAR JESTER

PROGRESS

offers with £1.00 drinks until 2am.
BAR JESTER

SIDEWALK

WEST MIDLANDS

FABULOUS Featuring resident DJ Cai, playing the best in chart hits.

camp tunes and more. Live cabaret every 1st Monday of the month. **Mon 7 November** - the return of fantastic cabaret from the one and only Danny Beard. this time performing as Pink! Free admission before midnight and just £3 after.

C:21, SHREWSBURY

THE MONDAY CLUB - 9pm-5am - Student night. Everything is £2 (Shots £1) with DJ Lee Edward
GORGEOUS, WOLVERHAMPTON

CHILL NIGHT with
THREE FURNACES, Telford

MEET THE TWINKY ROTATION

GOSSIP, STOKE ON TRENT

STUDENT NIGHT Fri

PINK, STOKE ON TRENT

EAST MIDLANDS

2 TILL 2

THE BOSTON, NORTHAMPTON

DISCO

NEW FORESTERS, NOTTINGHAM

November

1 8 15 22 29

TUESDAY

90'S NIGHT - Every Tuesday night 10.30pm-3am
NIGHTINGALE CLUB

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday - All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two
THE LOFT LOUNGE

CREAM STAR SUPERSTARS - With your host karaoke temptress. Gavina. Party starts at 9pm till late
MIDLANDS CLUB

OPEN YOUR SNATCH - Songs, Games & Prizes with Miss Penny
THE VILLAGE INN



TUNE UP TUESDAY

BAR JESTER

WEST MIDLANDS

THE VILLAGE INN'S KARAOKE PARTY

THE LION BAR & CLUB, WALSALL

THE LOFT LOUNGE

THREE FURNACES, Telford

DIVERSITY weekly

VELVET, WORCESTER

FLAUNT A.I.

BREWERY TAP, WORCESTER

SKYE'S PARTY NIGHT D.J. and ess 5pm-11pm
THE WHITE HART, WOLVERHAMPTON

TWISTED TUESDAYS The

RAINBOWS, COVENTRY

EAST MIDLANDS

2 TILL 2 Open from 2pm till 2am

THE BOSTON, NORTHAMPTON

CHILL OUT NIGHT Free

NEW FORESTERS, NOTTINGHAM

THE VILLAGE INN

DOVER CASTLE, LEICESTER

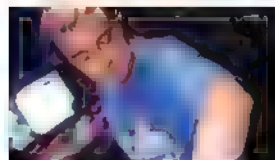
November

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BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday - All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two
THE LOFT LOUNGE

2 GOOD 2 MISS - Drinks from just £2 with DJ Mike Emery
MISSING BAR



KILLER KARAOKE - with Charlotte the Harlotte
THE VILLAGE INN

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS

SIDEWALK

DADDY'S DEALS AND FREE POOL
THE FOX

THE VILLAGE INN

BAR JESTER

WEDNESDAY LINE Line Dancing

THE WELLINGTON

WEST MIDLANDS

DISCO & DJ with

RAINBOWS, COVENTRY

THE VILLAGE INN

THREE FURNACES, Telford

THE VILLAGE INN

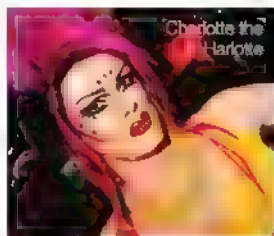
RAINBOWS, COVENTRY

EAST MIDLANDS

KARAOKE - 9pm till 3am. £2 drinks from 8pm till 11pm. Free Entry
THE BOSTON, NORTHAMPTON

GAMES NIGHT

NEW FORESTERS, NOTTINGHAM



November

6 13 20 27

BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday - All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two
THE LOFT LOUNGE

CHARLIE HIDES - Thurs 3 November - A night of cabaret with hugely popular impersonator Charlie Hides.
THE LOFT LOUNGE

COMEDY TRIPLE TREAT - Thurs 17 November - Comedy special with John Pendal, Suzy Bennett and Barbara Nixon.
THE LOFT LOUNGE

CULT - Bringing dirty house back home. Top Floor from 10pm.
NIGHTINGALE CLUB

I <3 THE 90S - From 8pm with DJ Dan. Doors open from 2pm
EDEN

LA VOIX - Thurs 10 November - The return of Britain's Got Talent star La Voix.
THE LOFT LOUNGE

POUNDED - £5 entry. Drinks from a £1. DJ Corey playing chart and dance on whilst Miss Marty and DJ Craig with all the pop and cheese on the middle floor
NIGHTINGALE CLUB

TANGO THURSDAYS - with Marty

Happy Hour 12noon-2am
THE VILLAGE INN

THROWBACK THURSDAY - £1.20 bombs and great music!
THE LOFT LOUNGE

THE VILLAGE INN

SIDEWALK

SHOT EXCHANGE

THE CORE

12.01 - with DJ James Levett. Open from midnight until 5am with drinks from £1
GORGEOUS, WOLVES

DISCO & DJ A night of fun with

THE WHITE HART, WOLVERHAMPTON

2 TILL 2 - Open from 2pm till 2am for a quiet drink
THE BOSTON, NORTHAMPTON

THE BIGGEST GAY

MONDAY NIGHT IN THE MIDLANDS!



MON 7TH NOVEMBER
DANNY BREAD
WINNER OF UK DRAG IDOL

**FREE
ENTRY
BEFORE
MIDNIGHT!**
10PM-3AM



MON 5TH DECEMBER
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WE ARE EVOLVING

NEW MENU
NEW KRAFT BEERS
NEW COCKTAILS
NEW EVERYTHING

NOVEMBER
2016



November



BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday - All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two

THE LOFT LOUNGE

ALL DAY EVERY DAY PRICES - DJ Pam, takes over the weekend by playing the best of club classics, house, R&B and all your favourites. Enjoy all day every day prices too!

EDEN BAR

DEPECHE MODE THEME NIGHT

Fri 11 November - A one-off night dedicated to all things Depeche Mode

EDEN BAR

BIG GAY FRIDAY - Party anthems all night long with Missing's DJ James. Open until the early hours

MARQUEE BAR

SING STAR SUPERSTAR WITH DISCO & KARAOKE - with DJ Nikki

EDEN BAR

FREAKY FRIDAY - Big name cabaret at midnight. Open until 6am. **Fri 4 Nov** - Miss Jason **Fri 11 Nov** - Vicky Vivacious **Fri 18 Nov** - Miss Penny **Fri 25 Nov** - Sandra

THE VILLAGE INN

INFUSION - Free Entry. Absolute Anthems and Floor Fillers with DJ Corey. Drinks from £2. £2 entry

NIGHTWALK CLUB

KICK START - Kick start the weekend from 9pm til the early hours. Hosted by James.

MARQUEE BAR

LBR - With Charlotte the Harlot. Open until 6am every Friday

THE VILLAGE INN

LIP GLOSS - **Fri 4 November** - A night for the trans* community, admirers and friends. With Miss Marty and a male stripper Fabio

EDEN BAR

MIDSBARS - **Fri 18 November** - A night for the bear community, admirers and friends

EDEN BAR

OLD SKOOL GARAGE - The first Friday of the month sees the Nightingale go back in time, playing some of the best in old skool garage. A night not to be missed

NIGHTWALK CLUB

SAATHI - **Fri 25 November** - Every last Friday monthly. South Asian Gay and Lesbian club night. Bollywood and Bhangra

NIGHTWALK CLUB

SING STAR SUPERSTAR - with DJ Nikki every Friday - your chance to win cash

EDEN BAR

VINTAGE FRIDAYS - a night of soul, funk, rock, motown. Northern Soul and all the classic favourites

THE LOFT LOUNGE

XXL - **Fri 18 November** - Men only

night with DJ Paul Morrell. Early Bear offers until 11pm. Every 3rd Friday of each month

THE CORE CLUB

FUNK'D UP - Female Saturdays

CLUB CHIC

KARAOKE

THE FOX

MARQUEE BAR

BAR JESTER

WEST MIDLANDS

THANK FUNK IT'S FRIDAY!

Gorgeous residents spinning house and classics. 12am - 6am

GORGEOUS CLUB, WOLVERHAMPTON

BANG

THE LOW, WALSALL

TV PARTY NIGHT

THE GREENHOUSE, DARLSTON

EDEN BAR

THE THREE FURNACES, TELFORD

EDEN BAR

RAINBOWS, COVENTRY

FRIDAY SOCIAL - with DJ

THE BELL, STOURBRIDGE

EDEN BAR

THE WHITE HART, WOLVERHAMPTON

START THE WEEKEND - Free admission before 11pm. Tanya H

PINK, STOKE ON TRENT

TEI FRIDAY - A fun and fun

BREWERY TAP, WORCESTER

EAST MIDLANDS

PINK POUNDER - Every Friday night with DJ Snuckles. £8 entry, £1 drinks. Open 9pm-4.30am

THE BOSTON, NORTHAMPTON

CLUB NIGHT - with DJ

MELBANK, LEICESTER





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WEDNESDAYS 10PM - 3AM
SATURDAYS 10PM - 8AM
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BIRMINGHAM

3RD FRIDAY EVERY MONTH
9PM - 3AM
THE CORE
135 SHERLOCK ST, BIRMINGHAM

FACEBOOK.COM/XXLLONDON

BIRMINGHAM

BOS HITS - with DJ Dan from 2am it's back to the 80s
Free Will

THE ATTIC - Available for hire. Call the venue for more info - 0121 622 4256
Midweek Will

IMANI WILLIAMS - Sat 26 November
- Live PA from Say You Do and Don't Need No Money house vocalist Imani Williams
The Nightingale

BIG SATURDAY NIGHT OUT - Over 2 floors, 3 D.J.s. Open til 8am. With DJ Lotty & DJ Richard Moon. With DJ Tonic in The Village Underground
The Village Inn

BIG SATURDAY NIGHT OUT - Every Saturday, with loads of drinks promotions
Nightingale Club

BIRMINGHAM FETISH MEN - Sat 22 November - Celebrating a year of fetish fun in the Eden bar marquee. Strict dress code applies.
Free Will

CULT - Bringing dirty house back home. Top Floor from 10pm.
Nightingale Club

LISA Q JONES - Sat 19 November - Charlie Hides' latest character returns to Birmingham's Eden Bar for a night of cabaret!
Free Will

KARAOKE & COCKTAILS - in The Attic. plus music from across the decades.
Midweek

L8R - With Charlotte the Harlotte Open until 8am every Saturday
The Village Inn

MARY MAC - Sat 26 November - A night of cabaret with Mary Mac
Free Will

SATURDAY SESSIONS - With DJ Simon Baker from 8pm.
The Loft Lounge

SATURS-FACTION - Welcome in the weekend with resident DJ. playing the best of everything
Sidewalk

SWAGGERLICIOUS - Every Saturday night (Room 4)
Nightingale Club

RUBY MURRY - Sat 5 November - Live cabaret with the ever popular Ruby Murry. If you fancy a great night out, this is for you.
Free Will

YOUR DISCO NEEDS YOU - featuring the biggest remixes, absolute anthems, dance classics, disco

house and commercial with your host Twiggy!
Free Will

THE BREAKFAST CLUB

CLUB CHIC

FABULOUS SATURDAYS

THE CORE CLUB
DJ PARTY NIGHT

THE FOX

#JUST SAYING

BAR JESTER

KARAOKE
THE WELLINGTON

WEST MIDLANDS

STRAWBERRY SATURDAYS - Wolverhampton's biggest night out with DJ Jame Levett
GORGEOUS, WOLVERHAMPTON

BIG NIGHT OUT

THE LION WALSALL

CLUB KUBARK

THE THREE FURNACES, TELFORD

BIG SATURDAY NIGHT OUT

RAINBOWS, COVENTRY

INCLUSION

THE BELL, STOURBRIDGE

NOT TO MISS

PINK, STOKE ON TRENT

WEEKLY CABARET

THE WHITE HART, WOLVERHAMPTON

EAST MIDLANDS

BIG WEEKEND PARTY NIGHT - 10pm to 6am. Free entry before 11pm, £3 before 1am and £5 after. **THE BOSTON, NORTHAMPTON**

CLUB KUBARK

HELSINKI, LEICESTER

TAKE A TEST UK.COM

The Home Postal Testing Kit you can Trust

Order your ***FREE HIV test kit now!**

Sexual Health postal kits now available

*Free postal HIV Tests to Birmingham postcodes. Use voucher code CF0716 for FREE HIV TESTS for non-Birmingham postcodes (valid for a limited period) - supported by Saving Lives (Charity no: 1144855)



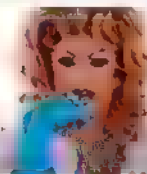
BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday - All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two
THE LOFT LOUNGE

SING STAY SUPERSTAY WITH DISCO & KARAOKE - with DJ Nikki. Every Sunday
Free Will

LOCAL CABARET - with Charlotte the Harlotte. Showcasing the best of the Midlands cabaret circuit every Sunday
THE VILLAGE INN

MISS PENNY'S SUPERIZE SUNDAYS - Cabaret every Sunday hosted by the one and only Miss Penny on stage at 8.30pm and 10.30pm.
Midweek Will



NEW FOOD MENU

SIDEWALK

November

CHILL OUT

THE FOX

SURPRISE TO FOLLOW

BAR JESTER

WEST MIDLANDS

MARTY'S PARTY 9pm-4am - Fun & Games, Karaoke. Prizes and all round mayhem. Drinks from £2
GORGEOUS, WOLVERHAMPTON

THE PARTY INCLUDES

LION BAR & CLUB WALSALL

KARAOKE & DJ

THE WHITE HART, WOLVERHAMPTON

RANDOM PARTY NIGHT

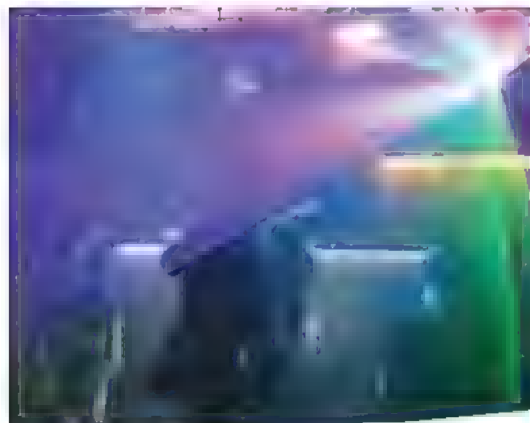
THREE FURNACES, TELFORD

EAST MIDLANDS

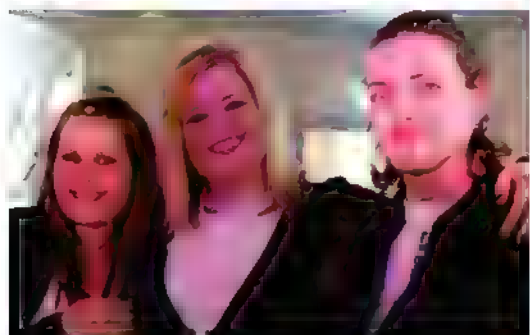
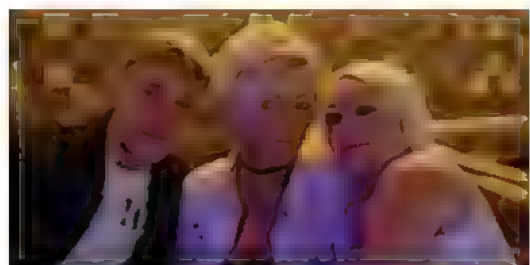
RAINBOW CLUB

RAINBOW & DOVE, LEICESTER

Glam Thursdays debut at Bromsgrove's 57 Monkeys!



More great photos on [facebook](#)



Glamorous CABARET BAR

Mondays

DJ MATT & MIKE EMERY

Wednesdays

DJ MIKE EMERY

with House, Dance & RnB

Thursdays

DJ AMANDA CRUZ

playing your favourite Camp and Charts

Fridays

DJ MATT & MIKE EMERY

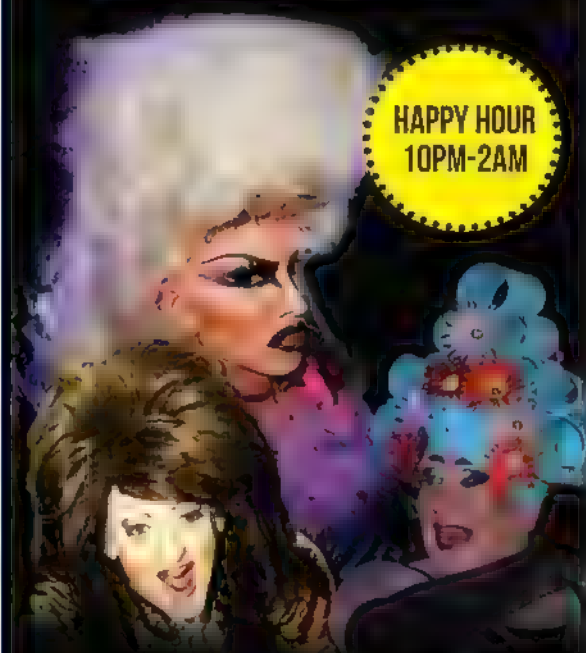
Saturdays

DJ PAM CATZ

Sundays

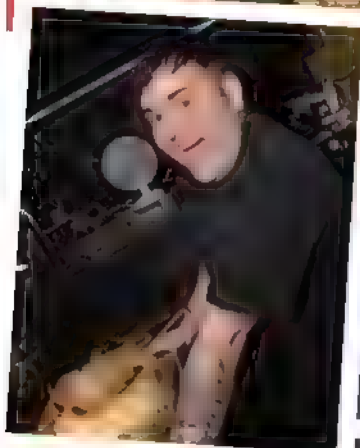
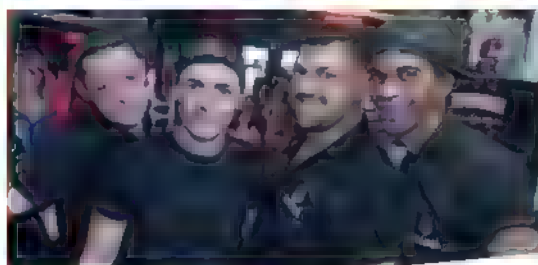
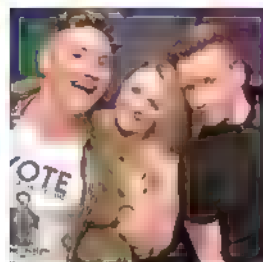
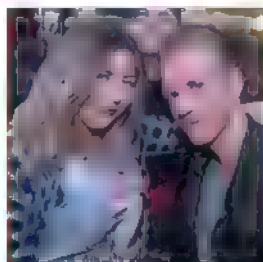
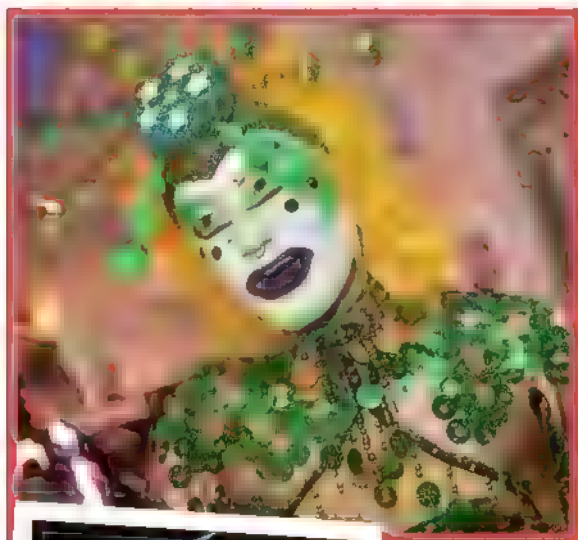
DJ GAVINA VAGINA with her night
of Comedy, Camp and Show Tunes

HAPPY HOUR
10PM-2AM

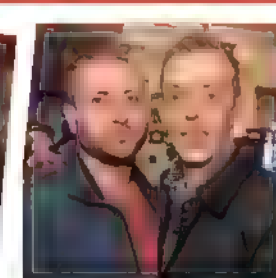


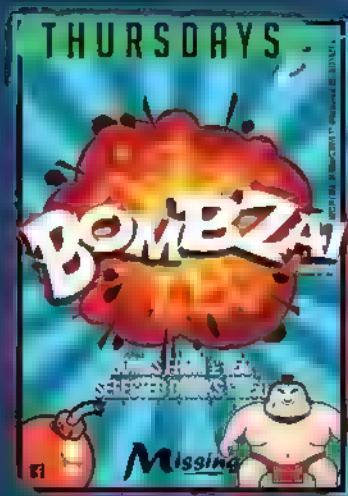
ALBANY HOUSE · 31 HURST ST · BIRMINGHAM · B6 4BD
OPEN TIL 6AM

Make sure you're not missing out at **Missing Bar**



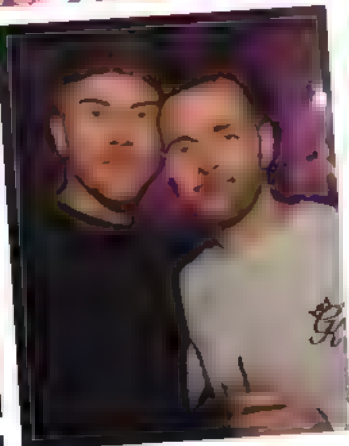
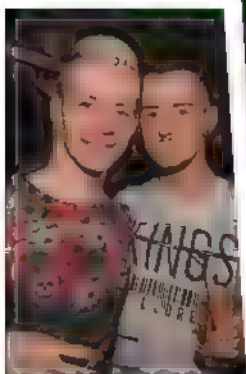
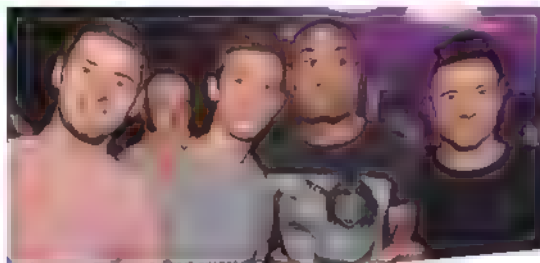
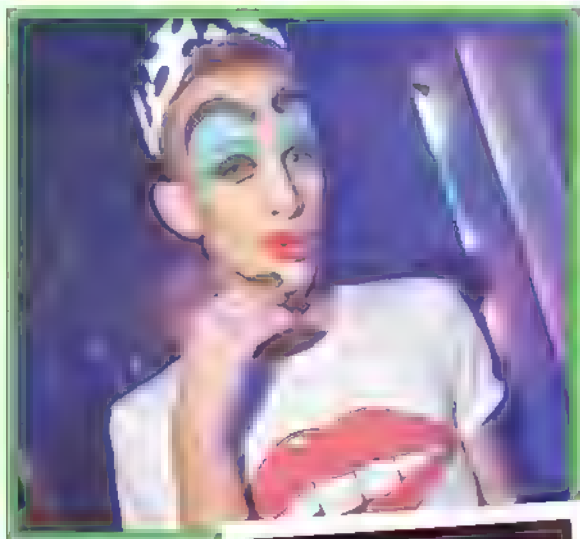
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facebook.com/midlandszone.co.uk



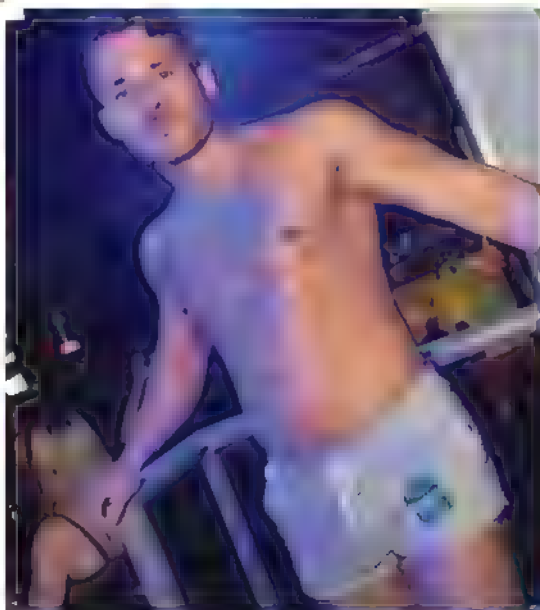
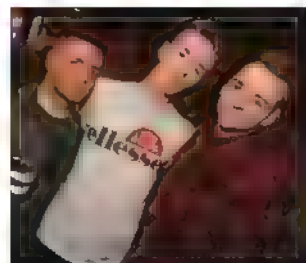
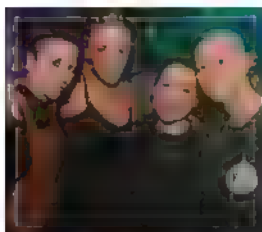
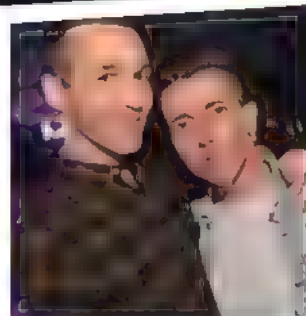
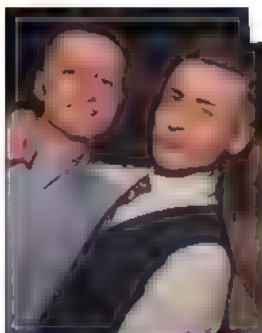


THIS NOVEMBER AT
Missing

The Nightingale is the perfect place to party all night!

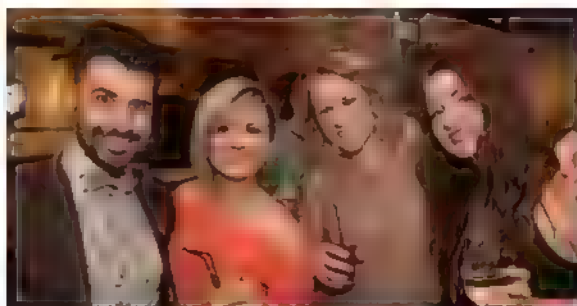
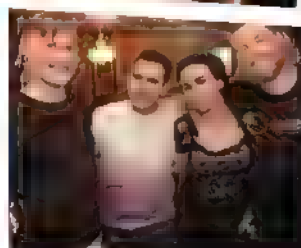
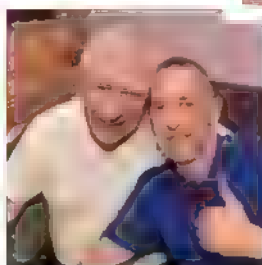
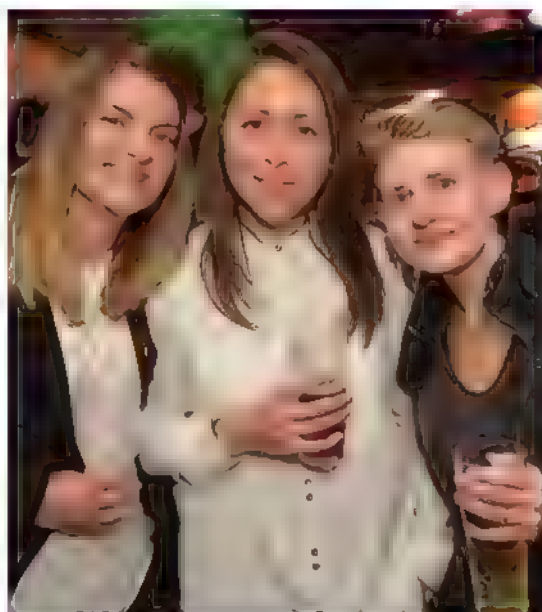
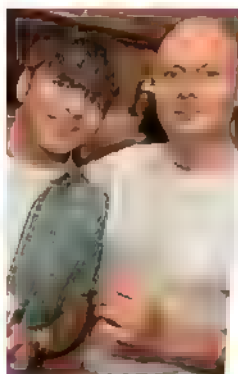
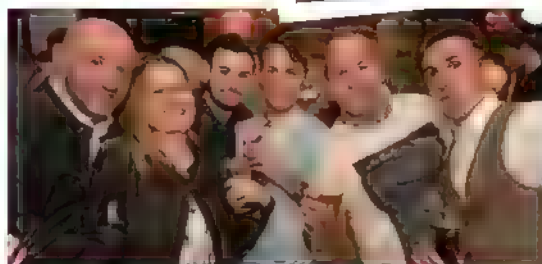
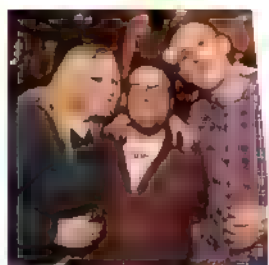
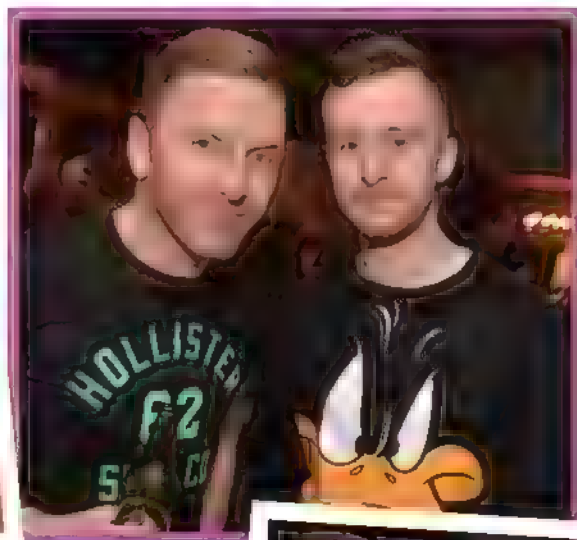
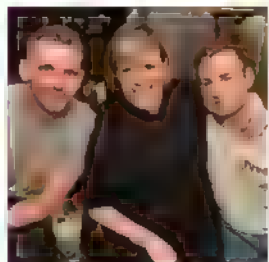


More great photos on [facebook](#)



Pictures by **Laura Byrne**

Gear up for the weekend at Birmingham's **Loft Lounge!**



Pictures by **Laura Byrne**

THE VILLAGE INN

WWW.VILLAGEBIRMINGHAM.CO.UK



NOVEMBER

MISS
JASON

FRIDAY 4TH

VICKY
VIVACIOUS

FRIDAY 11TH

MISS
PENNY

FRIDAY 18TH

SANDRA
LONDON

FRIDAY 25TH



VILLAGEINNBIRMINGHAM

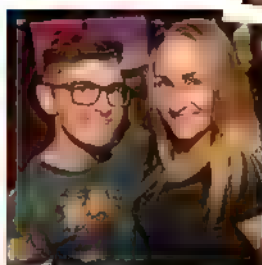
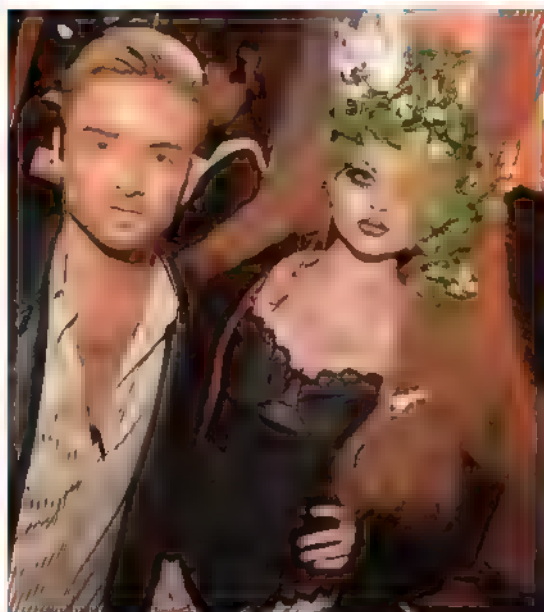
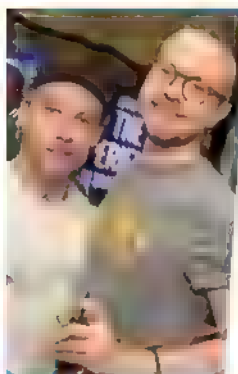
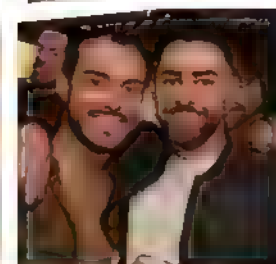
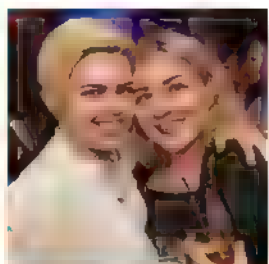
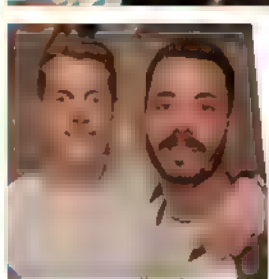
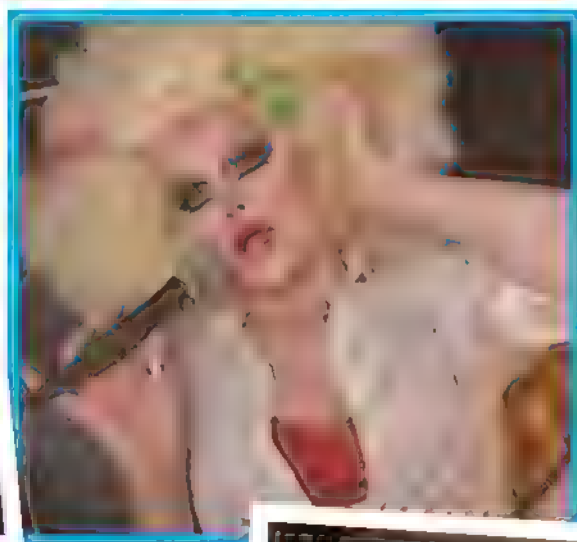
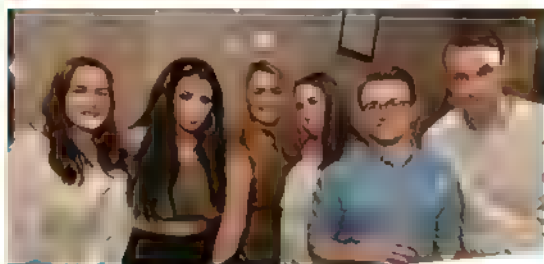


@VILLAGEBRUM



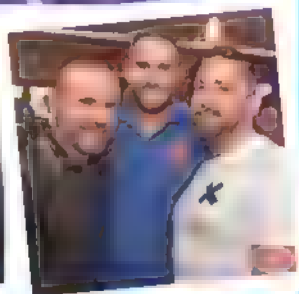
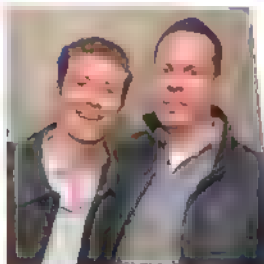
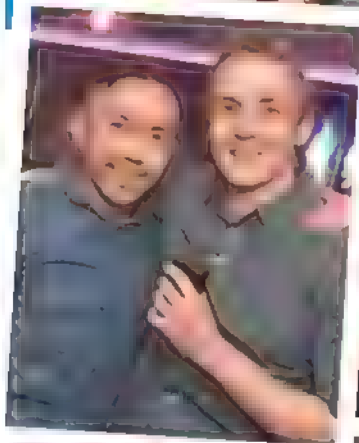
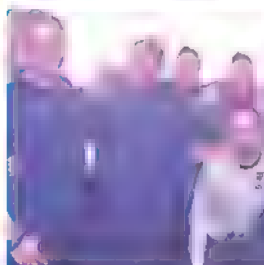
THEVILLAGEBIRMINGHAM

Get your weekend party started at **The Village Inn!**

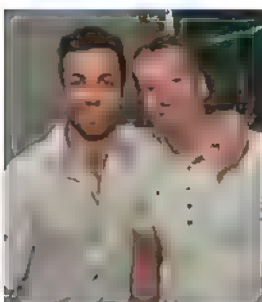
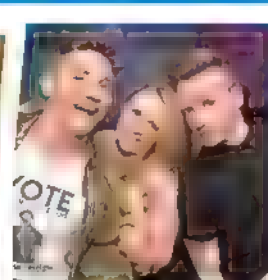


Pictures by **Laura Byme**

It's a boys' night out at Birmingham's **Eden Bar!**



More great photos on facebook
[facebook.com/mojandszone.co.uk](https://www.facebook.com/mojandszone.co.uk)



November Entertainment

Charlie Hides

*Fri
4th* **Lip Gloss** Post Halloween Special
Fancy Dress Cabaret Miss Marty
Stripper Fabio

Sat 5th Ruby Murry

Thurs 10th **La Voix**

Fri 11th **Depeche Mode**
The new album, *Excuse Us*

*Sat
12th* **BFM Fetish** 55 Entry
Usual Dress Code
Birthday party at Eden sponsored by Invincible Rubber
Brenda La Beau Raffle

Thurs 17th **Comedy Triple Treat**
John Pendal Saxy Bennett Barbara Nice
Top Class Comedy in the Eden Theatre. FREE ADMISSION. Table Service

*Fri
18th* **Mids Bears** Bears, Cubs, Otters
and their Admirers
Monthly Meet-Up

Sat 19th Lisa Q Jones

Sat 26th Mary Mac

Every Fri

DJ Nikki
 Karaoke & Disco

Every Sat

DJ Dan
Charts & 80's Proms

Every Sun

DJ Nikki
Karaoke & Disco

eden

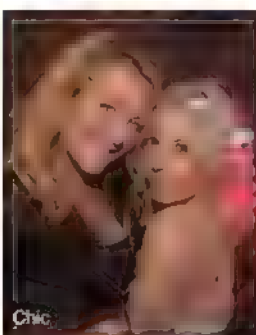
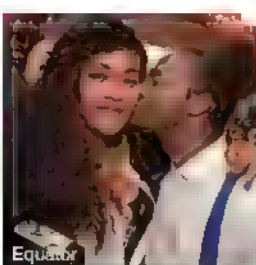
116 Sherlock St, Birmingham B5 6NB | End of Hurst Street | 0121 622 1953 | www.TheEderBar.co.uk

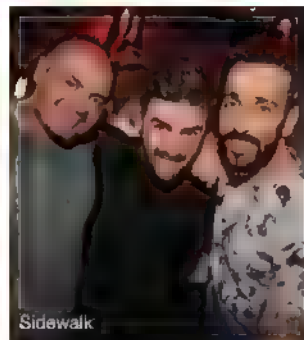
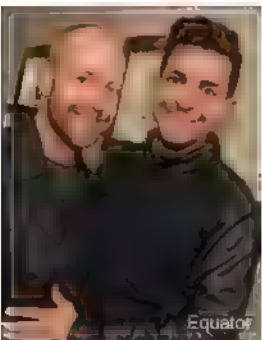
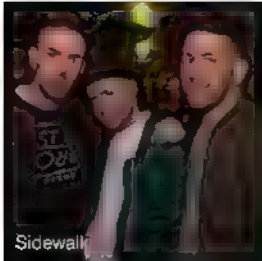
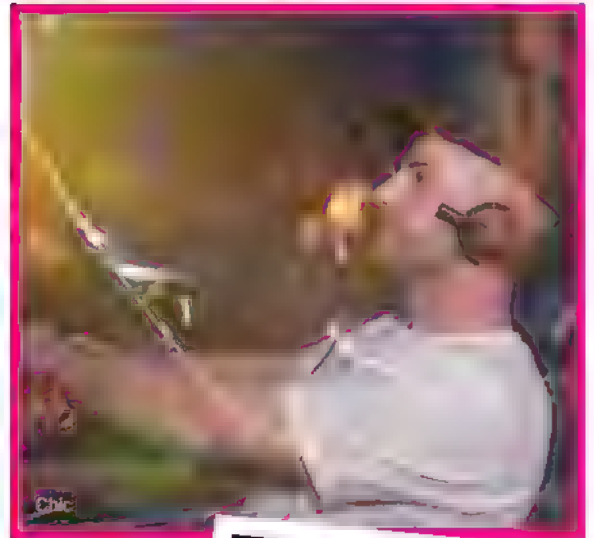
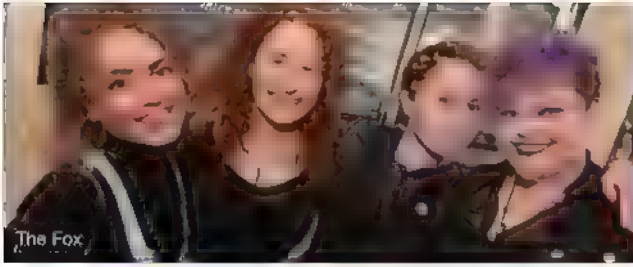
Out and about in **Birmingham's Gay Village!**



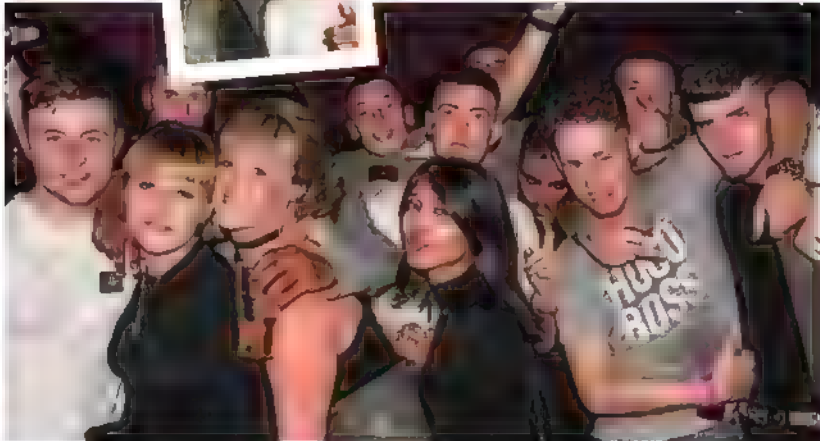
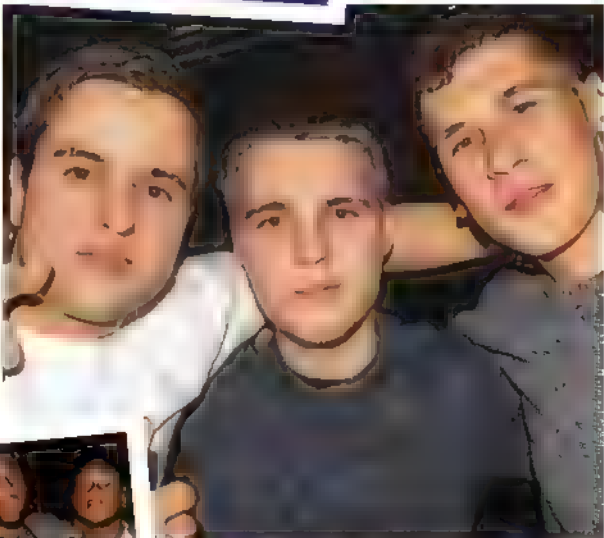
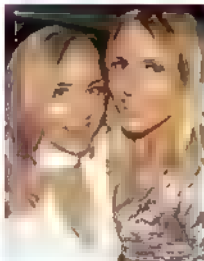
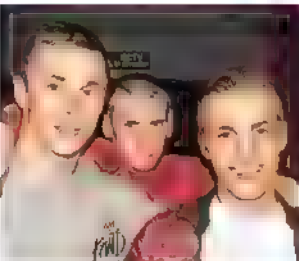
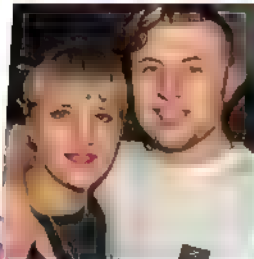
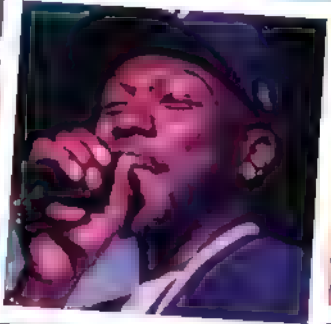
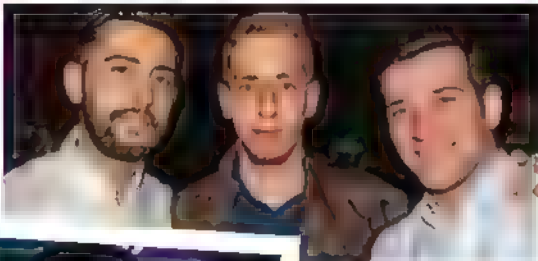
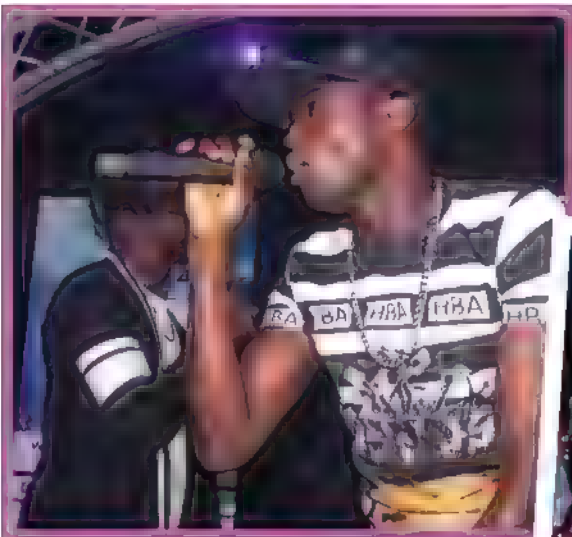
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Reggie & Bollicious rock **Gorgeous**' big birthday party!



GAY BARS AND CLUBS IN THE MIDLANDS...

Birmingham

BAR JESTER
Holloway Circus
B1 1EG
Tel: 0121 643 8344

BECKY CLUB
Lower Essex St. B5 6QP
Tel: 0121 666 6888

BLACK SPIN
28 Horsefair B11DD
Tel: 0121 666 6806

THE CORE
Sherlock St. B5 6NB
Tel: 0121 622 2797
www.thecoreclub.co.uk

EDEN BAR
Sherlock St. B5 6NB
Tel: 0121 622 1953
www.theedenbar.co.uk
See pictures on page 70

EDEN BAR
Hurst St. B5 6SE
Tel: 0121 622 5077

FOUNTAIN INN
Wrentham St. B5 6QL
Tel: 0121 622 1432

THE FOUNTAIN
17 Lower Essex St
B5 6SN Tel: 0121 622 3213

LOFT LOUNGE
142 Bromsgrove St.
B5 6RG
Tel: 0121 6222 444
www.theloftlounge.co.uk
See pictures on page 69

MISSING BAR
Hurst St. B5 6NU
Tel: 0121 622 4256
www.missingbar.co.uk
See pictures on page 69

THE NIGHTINGALE
Kent St. B ham
B5 6RD
Tel: 0121 622 1718
www.nightingaleclub.co.uk
See pictures on page 69

RSVP (formerly Queer Street)
Hurst St. B5 6SE
Tel: 0121 622 2444

SIDEWALK
Hurst Street
B1 1EG
Tel: 0121 666 622C
www.sidewalkbirmingham.co.uk

THE VILLAGE INN
Hurst St. B ham
B5 4BD
Tel: 0121 622 4742
www.villagebirmingham.co.uk
See pictures on page 72

THE WELLINGTON
72 Bristol St. B5 7AH
Tel: 0121 622 2592

West Midlands

COVENTRY
THE COVENTRY
Short St. CV1 2LW
Tel: 02476 551738

GLOUCESTER

THE WESTGATE
Westgate Street
GL1 2NF
Tel: 01452 690045

KIDDERMINSTER

ROYAL KINGDOM
31 New Road. DY10 1AF
Tel: 01562 228619

LEEK

VALEANT
3 Stanley Street, ST13 5HG
Tel: 01538 382812

C21 CLUB
Abbey Foregate.
SY2 6AE
Tel: 01743 271821
www.c21bac.co.uk
See pictures on page 69

THE PEACH TREE
21 Abbey Foregate.
Tel: 01743 355055
www.thepeachtree.co.uk
See pictures on page 69

SPIRIT
22 Abbey Foregate.
SY2 6AE
Tel: 01743 271821
www.spiritchampagne.co.uk
See pictures on page 69

STOKE-ON-TRENT

CLUB CHIC
4 Hope Street.
ST1 5BT
Tel: 01782 204957

THE 93
93 Stafford Street,
ST1 1LS Tel: 01782 272772

STOURBRIDGE

THE BULL
20 Market St. DY8 1AG
Tel: 07826 518478

STRATFORD upon AVON

NO7
Prowd Crowd. 1st Mon
monthly 7 Windsor St.
Tel: 07787 642510

TELFORD

THE TOWNHALL
30 Bridgnorth Rd,
Madeley TF7 4JB.
Tel: 01952 588521

WALSALL

THE LION
Birchills St
WS2 8NG
Tel: 01922 610977

THE RED LION
Park St. WS1 1NW
Tel: 01922 637790

WOLVERHAMPTON

THE SHIRAZ TAVERN
14 Bond St. WV2 4AS
Tel: 07825 305050

GORGEOUS
School St. WV1 4LF
Tel: 01902 427247
See pictures on page 69

THE WHITE HART
Worcester St
WV2 4LQ
Tel: 01902 423998

WORCESTER

THE FLY
50 Lowesmoor
WR1 2SG
Tel: 01905 780467

THE CROWN
Angel Row
WR1 3QN
Tel: 01905 20218

East Midlands

DERBY

THE CROWN INN
40 Curzon St
DE1 1LL
Tel: 01332 381742

LEICESTER

DOVER TAVERN
34 Dover St. LE16PT
Tel: 0116 255 3052

HELSINKI
94 Rutland St. LE1 1SB
Tel: 0116 254 7568

RAINBOW & ROSE
185 Charles St. LE1 1LA
Tel: 0116 254 7568

SLOANES
3-5 New Walk, LE1 6RL
Tel: 0116 255 2220

ROYAL
(YOLO) Gay every Wed.
Belgrave Gate. LE1 1LA
Tel: 0116 251 7986

NORTHAMPTON

THE JUSTON
College St. NN1 2OP
Tel: 01604 604404

NOTTINGHAM

NEW FORESTERS
St Ann's St. NG1 3LX
Tel: 0115 958 0432

THE WARRINGTON INN
38 Lower Parliament
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LGBT Groups

ACE A Choir of Equality Meets every Thursday 5.30-7pm Tel 01902 425092

ACTING OUT An acting group for the LGBT community open to anyone. Contact: acting.out@btinternet.com or visit www.actngout.org.uk

ARTPHIDE Art group Contact: beckyebbett@hotmail.com

BARDS & BOOKS Reading group Every 1st Monday monthly LGBT Centre Bham ehadsenhouse@hotmail.com

BGSO Birmingham Gay Symphony Orchestra Contact: info@bgsos.org.uk or visit www.bgsos.org.uk

DUDLEY LIBRARY LGBT READING GROUP 1st Friday Of Every Month Tel: 01384 815560

GAPP (Gay and Performing Proudly) Birmingham Call Mike 07545 507791

LEICESTER POETRY OPEN MINE NIGHT Meets last Tues monthly at The Red Tent Tel Bobba 07777 692881

LEICESTERSHIRE RAINBOW VOICES LGBT choir Meets every Tues in Leicester Call Chris on 07740 855248

LGBT READING GROUP Every 3rd Wednesday monthly 7pm Tel Jayne 01902 552060

JOURNEY FILM GROUP LGBT Film group meets every 1st & 3rd Tuesday monthly www.journeyfilmclub.co.uk

RAINBOW SPIRIT Creative activities for gay men. Call Jon 07974 477206

RAINBOW VOICES LGBT choir Call Carolyn 07828 627484 or Steve 07813 025990

SMETWICK LIBRARY LGBT Reading Group 1st Monday monthly @ 5.45pm Tel 0121 558 0497

UNTOLD STORIES LGBT History project in Leicestershire & Rutland e.denniss@leicestershirelgbtcentre.org

WALSALL LGBT BOOK CLUB 1st Sat monthly 11am Walsall Central Library Contact: Kum 01922 653121

LGBT Social

ANOTHER WAY LGBT Social group meets in Walsall every Saturday 12-2pm Village Hub, Caldmore Walsall Tel 07475 942929

BROTHERHOOD Group for anyone transitioning from Female to Male (18+) LGBT Centre Leicester Call Dennis 0116 254 7412

BRUM IN GROUP Meets on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm at the HGL drop in Tel 07532 385760

BRUM DINING OUT Meets at a different restaurant each month e: brumdinngout@hotmail.com

CORBY LGBT NETWORK Friendship socialising and information exchange 3rd Wed monthly 7.30pm www.corbylgbt.co.uk

COVENTRY LADS social group away from the scene Call 02476 229292

DE MONTFORT LGBT SOCIETY Based in Leicester www.dmlgbt.co.uk

DERBYSHIRE CC Employee Network www.derbyshire.gov.uk/council/equalities/employee_network/lgbt

DERBYSHIRE REACHOUT Men's Social Group Tel 01332 207704

DOSTI South Asian men's group Leicester Call 0116 254 1747

DUDLEY GAY & BISEXUAL MEN'S SOCIAL NON-SCENE GROUP 2nd Sat monthly Free buffet lunch provided. Call: Matt Barlow 01384 243220

THE EDWARD CARPENTER COMMUNITY OF GAY MEN Call 08703 215121 Birmingham contact: 0121 551 3181

EVERGREEN LGBT Social Group in Bham Tel 07749 412269

FAM LGBT Social Events Group Northants www.famnorthants.co.uk

GAY CLASSIC CAR GROUP Call: Simon on 0121 565 4166

GATMEZ LGBT Games Night in Wolverhampton Twice monthly Thurs 8-10pm Tel 01902 425092

GLOUCESTERSHIRE Gay & Lesbian Community Social group meets every Thurs @ Gloucestershire 7.30 Tel 07050 627273

HEREFORD LGBT Gay Men's Drop-in The Health Centre Gaoi Street Hereford No appointment necessary

HIGH 5 GROUP Social Group for men affected by HIV in Leicestershire Tel 0116 254 1747

IME GROUP for BME LGBT people in Wolverhampton 2nd Sunday monthly Tel 07817 548802

LADS CAFE Shropshire Tetford & Wrekin Call 01952 221410

LADS CAFE Weekly gathering for Gay & Bisexual men in Wolverhampton Every Monday 6-9pm Tel 07788 673666

LAVENDAR MOVEMENT Planting flowers for all to enjoy Meet every Tues e: thelavendarmovement@gmail.com

LEICESTER GAY GROUP Call Pete on 0116 291 6138

LEICESTER LGBT CENTRE CAFE Leicester Call 0116 254 7412

LGBT PARENTS Network for LGBT parents www.lgbtparents.net

LGBT SHREWSBURY What's happening in Shrewsbury lgbtshrewsbury.co.uk

LGBT STAFFORDSHIRE Stoke on Trent Meets every Wed at The Observatory, Hanley www.gaysstoke.org.uk

MUBIAN RAINBOW Celebrating black LGBT people in the community West Midlands Social Group Tel 0121 446 1068

OUT EVERYWHERE Bringing people together since 1985 Call 08450 060050

PINK SOUTHWESTERS South West Bham LGBT Group Offers non-scene social events and activities Call 07976 274271

QUIZ NIGHT 1st Wednesday monthly 7pm @ Gorgeous Wolves Tel 01902 425092

SANDWELL Gay & Bisexual Men's Social Non-Scene Group 4th Sat monthly Free buffet lunch provided Call: Matt Barlow on 01384 243220

SHREWSBURY CHILL OUT MENDAYS 1st Mon monthly at Old Market Hall Cafe 8.15pm, Shrewsbury

SOUTH ASIANS LGBT Finding A Voice Social Group in Birmingham Meet once a month at Bham LGBT Centre Call 0121 643 1160

THIRD WAY Social Group for B people over 18 Every 3rd Tuesday monthly in Wolverhampton 7.30pm Tel 01902 425092

TRUE COLOURS Derby based BME LGBT Social group Call 07779 560284

WAGS Walsall Activities Social Group Over 18s only e: sqawalsall@hotmail.com

WARWICK PRIDE Social society Organises events on and around the University Campus e: hello@warwickpride.org

WOLCESTER LGBT NETWORK Community Group www.brewery-lap.org.uk

WS-MIDLANDS LGBT Social group Every 1st Tues monthly 7.30pm in Walsall Tel 07895 661557

LGBT Forum

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL EMPLOYEE NETWORK Formed in 2002 Email bcdlgbt@hotmail.com

BIRMINGHAM LGBT COMMUNITY TRUST campaigning and lobbying promoting community cohesion and representing LGBT community's views e: daveviney@lgbt.org

BIRMINGHAM LGBT COMMUNITY TRUST FORUM For .GB Groups Quarterly Forum open to all LGB groups for networking e: daveviney@lgbt.org

BLACK GAY & BISEXUAL MEN'S DISCUSSION FORUM A safe discrete confidential space for black men to discuss issues that affect their lives Call 0121 446 1068

GAY BIRMINGHAM REMEMBERED LGBT history

project e: dave@gay.birmingham.remembered.org.uk

LEICESTER LGB & T CENTRE Host numerous social groups Call 0116 254 7412

LGBT WOLVERHAMPTON To raise and develop the profile of the Wolves LGBT community Tel 01902 425092

MIDLANDS LGBT EMPLOYEES NETWORK Call: 02476 432711

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE Gay Men's Drop-in Call 01782 425869

PINK SHIELD Working to make Birmingham a safer place for the LGBT Community Tel 0121 622 2592

RAINBOW HERITAGE Nottinghamshire Call 0115 934 8485

TRADE SEXUAL HEALTH Holds events for professionals and the LGBT community Tel: 0116 254 1747

LGBT Support

EMBRACE Group for gay and bi men in Coventry aged over 50 Rainbows Coventry Call: James on 07824 448717 or Nicholas on 02476 231999

LADS LUNCH Monthly lunch for mature Gay & Bisexual men in Wolverhampton 3rd Sat monthly 11am-2pm Tel 01902 425092

LGBT 50+ Social group for mature LGBT people Contact 01752 201251 or ask@staffordshirebuddies.co.uk

MATURE GAY GROUP Meets in Shrewsbury every Friday 11am-1pm Call Trevor on 07779 861640

MATURE GAY MEN For older gay/bi men Call Tom or Paul on 0746 399 2196

OLDER LADS CAFE Weekly group for mature over 40 Gay and Bi-sexual men in Wolves Every Monday 14pm Tel 01902 425092

OLDER LBO Women's network social group Derby based Call 07779 560284

RUBY'S A mature lesbian & bisexual women's group Tel 01902 425092

SILVER SIP-PERS coffee morning for people aged 50+ Call 0116 254 7412

STOKE OLDER PERSONS GROUP Social group for mature LGBT Tel 01782 266998

Religious Groups

BIRMINGHAM BUDDHIST CENTRE Meditation Drop-in classes Tel 0121 449 5279

BIRMINGHAM L.G.C.M. Christian Organisation group Tel 01943 010345

CHANGING ATTITUDE Contact: The Revd Colin Coward on 01380 724508

COVENTRY LGCM (Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement) Tel: 07964 224391

DERBY QUEST for Spirituality Sun 5-6.30pm Tel 07970 812957

JOURNEY METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH Birmingham: Call 0121 454 4406 Wolverhampton: Call 07734 155664

LEICESTER GAY CATHOLICS A group for lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people their families and friends Call 07905 421915

LESBIAN & GAY CHRISTIANS Lesbian and gay Christian movement Tel 0121 453 1299 or texted 07943 010345

QUAKER Lesbian & Gay Fellowship Social and supportive group founded on Quaker spiritual principals www.qigf.org.uk

QUEST LINKLINE A national helpline service for lesbian, gay and bisexual Catholics Tel 0800 808 0234

RAINBOW MOOT LGBT Pagans All Pagan paths welcome Call Rob 07943 323889

STAFFORDSHIRE LESBIAN AND GAY CHRISTIANS Support group for lesbian and gay christians e: iana2910@hotmail.com or call 07974 7647

BIRMINGHAM BLAZE LGBT Friendly Football Team www.birmingham-blaze.co.uk

BIRMINGHAM BULLS LGBT Friendly Rugby Team Call Andy 07708 536416 or visit birminghambullsrlc.com

BIRMINGHAM SWIFTS LGBT running group meeting weekly for more information visit www.birmingham-swifts.co.uk

BOURNVILLE LADIES HOCKEY CLUB LGBT friendly hockey in south Birmingham www.bournvillehlc.co.uk

LEICESTER WILDCATS LGBT friendly football team Call or text Gareth 07825 581938

LGBT Community Indoor Football Wolverhampton Tel 01902 425092

LGBT TABLE TENNIS Club 1st & 3rd Wed monthly 7.30pm Tel 0121 643 0821

LGBT Zumba - Wolverhampton Tel: 01902 425092

GAY OUTDOOR CLUB Walks twice a month on Sundays

Contact gowm@yahoo.co.uk

MIDLANDS OUT BADMINTON Birmingham Call Andy on 02476 346141

MOSELEY SHOALS Birmingham's GOC Gay Swim Group For info call 0121 346 1522

NOTTINGHAM LIONS Gay football team founded in 2006 www.nottinghamlions.com

OUTDOORLADS Outdoor pursuits group for gay lads www.outdoorlads.com

STOKE PANTHERS BADMINTON SQUASH CLUB Call Andy on 0782 266998 5167

WOLVES WALKERS Tel 01902 425092

WOLVES WARRIORS Football Club Tel Andy on 07825 305050

Other Groups

BIRMINGHAM CITY UNI LGBT Social events every week www.bcuqgbt.com

LGBT & FRIENDS SOCIETY University of Derby Students Union www.udslgbt.com

LGBT ASTON UNIVERSITY Tel 0121 204 3000

STUDENT GROUPS Leicester University contact: dmlgbt@outlook.co.uk or js762@student.le.ac.uk for University of Leicester

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM LGBT ASSOCIATION Social events every Wednesday & Sundays e: lgbt@quid.bham.ac.uk

BIRMINGHAM GIRLS e-mail network e: Birmingham Girls networksubscribers@ya.com

BIRMINGHAM GIRLS BOOK GROUP Women-centred book group Meets 1st Sun of the month 3-5pm Tel 0121 622 32 3

B1-WOMEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP For information contact Bobbie at space318@bt.com

BOOTWOMEN Walks in the Midlands area Call 07505 970991

BORDER WOMEN Network for lesbian and Bi women www.borderwomen.net

L.BOW ROOM Social Group for women over 18. Meets every 2nd & fourth Wednesday monthly Tel 07817 548802

DO YOU NEED TO GIVE YOUR LGBT COMMUNITY GROUP BETTER EXPOSURE?
We're always looking for Community News and Community Groups to feature in our Community Profiles
Do you need to feature your group? contact Ryan Humphreys (Editor) on 01743 281722

To get your LGBT Group Listed: Call Adrian Parker on 01743 281714

FOX FILM CLUB Women-centred film club every 3rd Sunday monthly. www.foxbar.co.uk

KIDDERMINSTER GIRLS Lesbian social group meets bi-weekly at local pub. elphyc@bt.com blueyonder.co.uk

OLDER LESBIAN GROUP for the over 40s meets every 2nd Saturday of the month at 1pm at 10 Norton Tower. Contact oln-sue@hotmail.co.uk

RUBY'S Mature Women's Group Wolverhampton Tel: 01902 425092

RUBYFRUIT WOMEN Leicester based non-scene social group for lesbian, bisexual and questioning women of all ages. Wednesday nights from 7pm Tel: 01532 7512156474

THE PINK LINK is a social space in Staffordshire for women with a different vision. Call: 01782 266898

WORCESTER LESBIAN GROUP Meets twice monthly e-mail: myself179@outlook.com



1ST OUT YOUTH GROUP Leicester LGBT Centre 15 Wellington Street Leicester. Call: Paul Foxon on 0116 254 7412

DERBYSHIRE LGBT Youth Forum Tel: 01332 207704

GALAXY Group for lesbian, gay and bisexual young people aged 18 and under in Stoke on Trent and North Staffordshire. Call: 0300 123 0970

I-MIX Group for young LGBTQ people in Shropshire. Tel: 01952 221410

OUTBURST Nottingham Support group for LGBT young people. Tel: 0115 952 5040

OUT CENTRAL LGBT youth group for young people 13-19 who are LGBT or questioning their sexuality. Call: 0126 873458

OUT EAST Youth group based in Sutton Coldfield. Tel: 07795 611781

PRISM LGBTQ Support group for young people in Coventry. info@prismgbtq.org

UNIQUE Group for young LGBTQ people. Meet twice monthly on Sundays. Call Matt or Justin 01384 243220

X2Y Group for young LGBT people in Wolverhampton. Every Saturday. e-mail: info@x2y.org.uk

HIV AIDS Helpline

ABPLUS A Charity supporting people living with and affected by HIV. Call: 0121 622 6471

FRESHWINDS HOUSE Holistic care and support for people with life threatening illness. Tel: 0121 415 66-018 lines

HEALTHY GAY LIFE Birmingham Free confidential service working with Gay/Bisexual men to promote sexual mental and social health and well-being. Tel: 0121 440 6161

LEICESTERSHIRE AIDS SUPPORT SERVICES Tel: 0116 255 9995

STAFFORDSHIRE BUDDIES Confidential help and support for people living with or affected by HIV. Tel: 01782 201251

SUMMIT HOUSE SUPPORT Practical Support and confidential advice around all HIV/AIDS related issues in the Dudley Sandwell borough. Tel: 01384 243220

TERRENCE HIGGINS TRUST Offer a range of services for those infected and affected by HIV and STIs. Birmingham 0121 694 6440

STAFFORDSHIRE LGBT Youth Forum Tel: 01332 207704

TRADER SEXUAL HEALTH Offers a range of confidential services advice and support for LGBT communities affected by HIV & STIs. Leicester Tel: 0116 254 1747

LGBT Helpline

COVENTRY & WARWICK SHIRE FRIEND Tel: 02478 714199

DERBYSHIRE LGBT SWITCHBOARD Tel: 01332 349333

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INTEGRATED RESPONSE PROJECT Leicester Tel: 0116 255 0004

GAYLIFE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE Tel: 0300 123 0970

HATE CRIME NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE Talk to a Hate Crime officer in complete confidence. Stoke area. Tel: 01782 266998 (Lorella Higgins) North Staffs Tel: 01785 233458 (John Wilson)

LGB COUNSELLING SERVICE Free counselling service for all sorts of LGB related issues. Call: 01782 425969

LGBT AA MEETING West Midlands. 8pm every Sat. Summit House. Dudley. Tel: 01384 243220

LGBT STAFFORDSHIRE Stoke on Trent & North Staffs.

Tel: 01782 266998
NOTTINGHAM LESBIAN & GAY SWITCHBOARD 0115 934 8485 or text 07481 344040

RAINBOW SUPPORT, Herefordshire free and confidential support. Call: 07507 447834

TRADE SEXUAL HEALTH Offers counselling services and one to one support for LGBT communities. Leicester. Tel: 0116 254 1747

VICTIM SUPPORT Provides emotional support and practical help to anyone who has been a victim of crime. Tel: 0300 303 1977

Sexual Health

BIRMINGHAM LGBT CENTRE Support Groups, Sexual Health Testing, Cafe Community Groups. Events and more. Tel: 0121 643 0821

THE BRIDGE CENTRE Shrewsbury. A free sexual health service for gay and bisexual men. Tel: 01743 344474

BROOK BIRMINGHAM Free and confidential sexual health services in the West. Tel: 0121 248 2500

DUDLEY GAY MEN'S PROJECT Free & Confidential support service for gay, bisexual and MSM men living in or around Dudley. Call: Matt Barlow 07980 906895

HAWTHORNE HOUSE Sexual health testing also operates a Walk In Service every morning from 9.30am - 11.30am. Tel: 0121 424 3300 or 0121 424 2456

HEALTHY GAY LIFE Birmingham. Free confidential service working with Gay/Bisexual men to promote sexual mental and social health and well-being. Call: 0121 440 6161

HEREFORD INTEGRATED SEXUAL HEALTH CLINIC 29-30 Commercial Road. Hereford. Call: 01432 266908

HIV FAST TEST Free 20 minute HIV testing in Shropshire. Tel: 01952 221410

HIV TESTING by appointment at Summit House, West Bromwich. Call: Matt Barlow on 01384 243220 or 0121 500 5205

KWIK PRICK Rapid HIV Testing. Leicester. Call: 0116 254 1747

LGBT SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE Free services for the LGBT community who work or reside in South Staffs. Tel: 01782 201251

MEN ONLY Sexual Health Clinic at Heroes Health Club. Stourbridge. Call: Matt 07980 906895

MEN'S HIV FAST TEST CLINIC

Free 20 minute testing in Nottingham. 1st Monday monthly. Call: Adrian on 0115 983 3081

OUTNINOS A social support group for gay and bisexual men with mental health problems living in the Solihull borough. Call: 0121 742 4941

SANDWELL GAY & BI MEN'S SERVICE Sexual health and social support. Call: Matt Barlow 07980 906895

THE RAINBOW PRACTICE Every 1st & last Wednesday of the month. Held at The Gay Men's Drop-in. Call: 0300 123 0970

TRADE SEXUAL HEALTH Offers a range of confidential services for LGBT individuals and support for HIV & STIs including testing services. Leicester. Tel: 0116 254 1747

WALSALL GAY MEN'S HEALTH PROJECT Delivering health and social care services to the LGBT community. Tel: 01922 613141

WHITLALL STREET A sexual health clinic located in Birmingham city centre. Tel: 0121 237 5700

WORCESTERSHIRE GAY MEN'S HEALTH PROJECT Providing free confidential advice & support. Tel: 01905 681751

Support Groups

ABPLUS Poz Gay Men's Group. Meets 1st Thursday monthly for information and support. Call: Peter on 07960 404926

ALCOHOL & DRUGS SMART Recovery SMART meetings in a friendly environment. e-mail: smartbigbl@yahoo.com

BIRMINGHAM PARENTS' SUPPORT GROUP Meets 1st Wednesday Bi-monthly in Solihull. Tel: Helen on 0121 711 8106

BEAM (Black ethnic & Asian Minority) Social and Support Group in Leicester. Call: 0116 254 7412

COVENTRY & WARWICKSHIRE FRIEND gay, lesbian, bisexual or trans? Need to talk? Call: 02476 714199 Mon - Fri 7.30pm - 9pm

CHANGES Based in Wolverhampton. Call: Lisa on 07864240222 or Maria on 07542 450163

DOSTI South Asian men's support group. Leicester. Call: 0116 254 1747

GROUP ONE Derby based support group for LGBT families. Call: 07779 500264

HGL COUNSELLING & PSYCHOTHERAPY Mental and sexual health for lesbians, bisexuals, gay men and trans people with

a choice of male or female counsellors. Tel: 0121 446 1085 or 07976 919481

HGL MARRIED MEN'S GROUP Support and advice for married men. Call: 0121 440 6161

HIGH 5 GROUP An HIV awareness group for gay/bisexual men who are affected by HIV. Group provides support events outings. Leicester. Tel: 0116 254 1747

HIV MEN'S GROUP Shropshire. Tel: 01952 221410

HIV WOMEN'S GROUP Shropshire. Tel: 01952 221410

INFORMAL ONE TO ONE SUPPORT A service for young men, south Asian men and African Caribbean men. Tel: 0121 440 6161. Email: info@hghhs.uk

LEICESTER LGBT CENTRE Hosts numerous support groups. Call: 0116 254 7412

LGBT ALCOHOL SUPPORT GROUP Offer support to anybody in the gay community who has alcohol related problems. Tel: Tony on 0121 440 6161 or 07760 195642

LGBT NETWORK Stoke on Trent & North Staffordshire. Tel: 01782 266998

LGBT NETWORK Wolverhampton. Holistic support for LGBT people in the Black Country. Tel: 01902 425092

LGBT COUNSELLING Wolverhampton. Tel: 01902 425092

LGBT PROFESSIONALS in Wolverhampton. Meets once a month. Tel: 01902 425092

MIND OUT Mental Health Support Group in Wolverhampton. 1st and 3rd Wednesday monthly. Tel: 01902 425092

NATURAL HEALING For emotional and physical health. Contact Alison. Lesbian Homeopath. Tel: 01902 688087

NEW ROAD PARENTS Bromsgrove and surrounding areas. Supporting parents of LGBT people

Meets bi-monthly on the 1st Tue. Tel: Margaret 01527 832492

PINK PARENTS A social networking group for all lesbian and gay parents and their children. E-mail: parents@pinkmedia.com

PINK OUTSIDERS Support group for LGBT armed forces personnel past & present. Helpline: 0870 740 7755

RAPE & SEXUAL VIOLENCE PROJECT BIRMINGHAM Free confidential counselling for LGBT survivors of sexual domestic violence and hate crimes. Tel: 0121 643 0301

SANDWELL Gay & Bisexual Men's Drop-in Service. Every Friday. Tel: 01384 243220

SWAN WYNN FOREST Meets the first Wednesday monthly. For more details phone Tel: 07842 070 240

TIME OUT COUNSELLING Coventry. For all LGBT people. Tel: 07936 525668

WORCESTER LGBT NETWORK Tel: 01905 429800

Trans Support

LEICESTER BUTTERFLIES for info visit facebook.com/groups/butterfliesleicester/

OUTSKIRTS TRANS GENDER SOCIAL SUPPORT GROUP The West Midlands largest transgender social support group. Email: sally@outskirtsg.co.uk or visit www.outskirtsg.co.uk

SANCTUARY Providing support and practical help. Tel: 01902 744424

SANCTUARY STONE Support people who are Transsexual, Transvestite or Transgender in North Staffs. www.gaystoke.org.uk

TRANS SOUTH STAFFS Support and monthly group for the whole Trans community. Tel: 01782 201251

TRANS SOCIAL SUPPORT GROUP Meets every 1st and 3rd Monday monthly. Tel: 01902 425092



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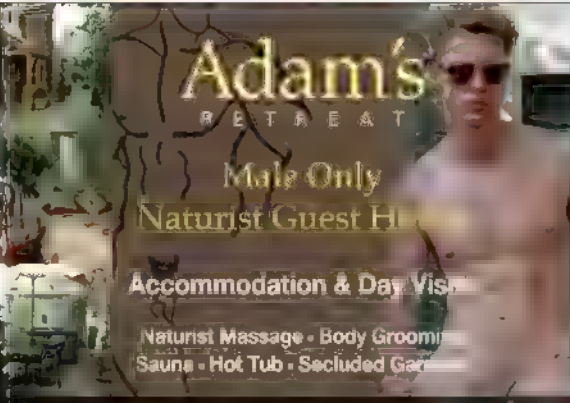
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GREENHOUSE

Tel: 0121 568 6126
Wilenhall Road, Darlaston,
West Midlands, WS10 8JG
gay-sauna.com

SPARTAN

Tel: 0121 382 3345
127 George Road, Erdington
Birmingham, B23 7SH
spartanhealthclub.co.uk

SPLASH SPA & LEISURE

Tel: 0116 367 3932
61 Bedford St,
South Leicester LE1 3JR
splashleisure.co.uk

UNIT 2

Tel: 0121 622 7070
Lower Essex Street,
Birmingham, B5 6SN
unit2sauna.info

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Tel: 0116 295 6900

11, N. L. Road, Lutterworth

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Tel: 01322 209150

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CITYSTEAM.CO.UK

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1 Lennox Road, Leicester

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HEROES HEALTH CLUB

Tel: 01322 442020

4, The Arcade, Leicester

HEROESHEALTHCLUB.CO.UK

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Tel: 01623 422257

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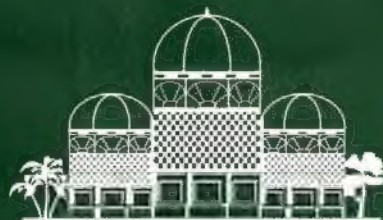
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THE EDITOR'S NOTE by Ryan Humphreys @ryanhumphreys

Autumn days and nights



Welcome to the November Issue of Midlands Zone magazine. With memories of summer not yet having completely evaporated, it's hard to believe that next month will see us decking the halls with boughs of holly...

Pride in Pride

Along with that aforementioned memory of summer, we've surely all still got vivid recollections of this year's Pride events.

Last month saw Wolverhampton Pride complete a successful summer of Midlands Pride festivals, the majority of which, it's reasonable to say, were hailed resounding successes.

And isn't it fantastic that Pride get-togethers continue to be so popular and well attended?

The LGBT community is a minority group and, as such, it's important to have events like Pride, at which we can all come together and feel united. And - maybe even more importantly - while massive steps towards across-the-board equality have undoubtedly taken place here in the UK, elsewhere in the world, being LGBT remains a hazardous business.

While homophobic attitudes prevail across the globe, Pride events will continue to have a purpose, providing the opportunity for LGBT citizens in more liberal societies to show their support for those within our community who're not so fortunate.

You make me wanna SHOUT!

On a lighter note, this month sees the Midlands hosting the eighth SHOUT festival of queer culture, presenting the region's gay community with plenty of opportunity to check out what's new and cutting-edge on the LGBT arts scene.

The 10-day festival is positively awash with thought-provoking, high-energy work.

Check out our special SHOUT feature for further information about this not-to-be-missed festival of fantastic entertainment.

World AIDS Day

The 1st of December is, of course, World Aids Day. The global health event is now in its 29th year of raising money, increasing awareness, fighting prejudice and improving education about the HIV virus. It's estimated that more than 36 million people worldwide are living with HIV, including over two million children. In the UK, around 100,000 people are living with the virus, and the rate of infection continues to rise each year...

As ever, there are plenty of World AIDS Day events taking place in the Midlands in and around December the 1st. Check out our special feature to find out what's going on where, and then get yourself along. We certainly will be.

See you in December...

ON THE BALL with Steve Ball

Looking For John

It's great to see often-overlooked queer landmarks brought to public attention. Historic England has just given special status to six 'historic LGBT venues', including Oscar Wilde's former home, the estate of 'the first modern lesbian' and a memorial to a trans spy. Too often, the influence of LGBT men and women who helped build our nation has been ignored. One such gay man - from the Midlands - who's in danger of being forgotten is John Curry. John was born in Birmingham in 1949, and as a child told his mother he wanted to take ballet lessons. Although she agreed, his father had other views, believing that ballet was not an acceptable pastime for a factory owner's son.

So John took up skating and dreamt of being the Rudolf Nureyev of the ice.

Although his grace and musicality was met with unspoken homophobia, Curry was determined and talented. Having won the European Championships, he achieved international acclaim when, in 1976, 19 million people watched him on television as he won Olympic Gold. He revolutionised ice skating and was the first British athlete in decades to win a gold medal at a Winter Olympics.

Remarkably for a gay athlete in the 1970s, Curry didn't try to hide his sexuality. In an interview the day after his triumph, he spoke about being gay, and said at a press conference: "I don't think I lack virility. What other people think of me doesn't matter."

When he retired from competitive skating, Curry pursued his desire to turn the sport into an art form, establishing his own ice dance company. Yet despite critical success, his relationships with other skaters were often fraught, and his company ended in bankruptcy.

In 1987, at the age of 37, Curry discovered that he was HIV positive. When he developed AIDS, he returned to the UK and sold his story to the press. Despite his troubles, Curry showed great talent, strength and courage, and is one of the Midlands' few gay icons. But there's still no blue plaque or any other memorial to this great gay Midlander. That, however, may be about to change, if actor and writer Tony Timberlake has his way. Since childhood, Tony's been obsessed with Curry's life and has now turned that obsession into a one-man play.

Looking For John is a revealing exploration of how and why we choose the heroes we do. It's a powerful, heartfelt and comic story of one man's obsession with his forgotten hero, and of his journey to get that hero celebrated once again.

Keep your eyes peeled. It may not be too long till we do see a plaque at Solihull Ice Rink, to honour the Midlands-born skater who changed the face of his sport forever.

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